FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 OCTOBER 1986

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Ministers' Statement — At the end of an Arab League Council session in Tunis over the weekend, Arab League foreign ministers issued a statement stressing the need to eliminate Arab disputes and hold an Arab summit conference as soon as possible, Tunis radio reported. The council statement reaffirmed the Arab League's rejection of direct negotiations with Israel and announced its decision to refer the Moroccan-Israeli Ifrane meeting to the next Arab summit conference. On the Iran-Iraq war, it said this topic is "at the heart of the concerns of the Arab nation," warning that the continuation of the conflict poses "serious dangers" and affirming its "total rejection" of the occupation of any part of Iraqi territory.

Saudi Crown Prince in Syria, Iraq — Saudi sources "clearly hinted" that Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah's talks in Damascus and Baghdad over the weekend were part of another effort to reconcile Syria and Iraq, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Reporting on Prince 'Abdallah's talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad 18 October, SANA said they discussed current Arab developments, ways to promote joint Arab action to confront "Zionist dangers," and bilateral relations. Prince 'Abdallah arrived in Baghdad the following day and met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, INA noted. The Iraqi agency said they discussed bilateral relations and the general Arab situation.

Syrian-Turkish Border Agreement

Syrian and Turkish officials reached agreement 16 October on the "reciprocal extradition" of smugglers and Kurdish separatists, *Anatolia* disclosed. Turkey wants Syria to extradite "separatist rebels" and "unidentified arsonists" who fled across the border, the Turkish agency noted.

Saudi-French Military Talks in Riyadh

The French and Saudi defense ministers signed a contract 19 October whereby France will provide technical support for equipment used by the Royal Saudi Arabian Navy, Riyadh radio reported. The French minister said at a Riyadh news conference that the contract will give French companies further opportunities to supply Saudi Arabia with munitions, according to SPA. Sources in Paris cited by Kuwait's *Al-Qabas* stated earlier that the talks would also cover the sale of French AMX-40 tanks to Saudi Arabia and the possible supply of Mirage-2000 aircraft to Jordan.

OPEC

In the wake of OPEC's difficulties in reaching agreement, an official Saudi statement carried by SPA announced the Kingdom's willingness to continue its current production quota for another 2 months, though "this will not be renewed." The statement stipulated that the offer is conditional on all OPEC members abiding by a benchmark price of less than $18 per barrel and by agreed output quotas, taking into consideration possible increases up to 200,000 barrels per day. Kuwait is demanding a 10-percent increase in its production quota, KUNA reported. The Iranian oil minister welcomed the Saudi proposal as a contribution toward the meeting's successful conclusion, IRNA noted.

Israel

Israeli police have arrested three people suspected of having carried out the 15 October hand grenade attack, Jerusalem radio announced 19 October, adding that the suspects are Islamic Jihad members who were recruited by Fatah. The radio noted earlier that Israel has asked the U.S. Administration to close PLO offices in the United States in light of the PLO's admission of responsibility for the attack in Jerusalem.

As for the Israeli pilot missing in Lebanon, Israeli official Uri Lubrani warned the Amal Movement in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio that Israel holds it responsible for the airman's well-being and safety, adding that Israel is demanding that Amal return the captive Israeli forthwith. Lubrani, the coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, stressed that the Israeli air raid 16 October was directed against "terrorist" bases, not against the Lebanese people. Amal leader Nabih Birri subsequently announced that if Amal is indeed holding the pilot, it will be ready to exchange him for "all" Palestinian and Lebanese detainees in Israel, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. A PLO statement broadcast by Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio urged Amal to hand its Israeli captive over to the PLO. Meanwhile, Radio Free Lebanon cited a report that the Israeli has been transferred to the Syrian-controlled area of the Al-Biqa' Valley. Commenting on the reasons for the downing of the Israeli plane during the raid near Sidon, the Israeli Air Force commander ruled out the possibility that it was hit by a missile, maintaining instead that the crash was the result of a malfunction in the F-4's bomb-load, according to Jerusalem radio.

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported an escalation of artillery exchanges across the Muslim-Christian contact lines in the capital 18 October, noting that shells hit the presidential palace in B'abda. An Amal Movement statement cited by the radio asserted that Amal bombarded the eastern sector in retaliation for shelling of Nabih Birri's residence and other targets in the Muslim sector.

Regarding the situation in the south, Radio Free Lebanon stated that around 400 Iranians armed with SAM-7's have deployed in Tyre and Al-Nabatiyah. The Voice of National Resistance radio, which supports Amal, claimed that South Lebanese Army (SLA) leader Antoine Lahd has been dismissed and replaced as SLA leader by Rafa'el Eytan, the former IDF chief of staff.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes attacked several Iranian trains carrying soldiers and military equipment 20 October, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement reported by Voice of the Masses radio. IRNA acknowledged an Iraqi raid on a cargo train near Andimeshk in Khuzestan, asserting that the attack killed 5 civilians and wounded 15 others.

Iraqi warplanes carried out a successful raid against a "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast 17 October, according to an Iraqi military statement broadcast by Baghdad radio. A Panamanian oil tanker was hit by a missile the same day before entering the Strait of Hormuz en route to Kuwait, according to QNA. The vessel was seriously damaged, 2 of its crew were injured, and 10 are missing.

Iran

An official cited by Tehran radio stressed that wheat supplies are "unprecedented," thus refuting "ludicrous rumors" that bread rationing will be imposed.

Libya

In a 17 October telephone interview reported by Paris radio, GUNT President Goukouni Oueddei said that he is under house arrest in Tripoli and announced his readiness for talks with Chadian President Hissein Habre. Chadian circles in Paris cited by AFP on 19 October reported that Libyan troops with air support attacked military and civilian targets in GUNT-controlled areas in northern Chad in an attempt to neutralize Oueddei's supporters.

As custodian of British interests in Libya, the Italian ambassador was summoned to receive a memorandum protesting "intentional" British participation in the U.S. disinformation campaign against Libya, Tripoli radio reported.

Sudan

An SPLA spokesman denied that John Garang was killed in an internecine dispute, the clandestine SPLA radio reported, saying that the rumor was circulated in an effort to undermine SPLA morale in preparation for an offensive by the Sudanese Army.

Egypt

Soviet Foreign Ministry official Vladimir Polyakov briefed President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of the Reykjavik summit, MENA reported, adding that following talks with Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Polyakov expressed satisfaction with his visit and noted that there are "numerous prospects" for expanding bilateral cooperation.

DRA

Addressing departing Soviet troops in a 17 October speech broadcast by Kabul radio, PDPA General Secretary Najibullah described their withdrawal as a "good step" that must be viewed as a "new move toward ending the undeclared war against our revolution and ending the aggression supported from abroad." TASS subsequently cited his remark that the departure of six Soviet regiments will give impetus to speeding up a political settlement, particularly through the Geneva talks.

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Press Conference Held on Soviet Troop Withdrawal

LD171342 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1600 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Press conference given at the Storey Palace in Kabul on 14 October by DRA Foreign Minister Shah Muhammad Dost; Nabi Azemi, first assistant to the DRA minister of defense; and Mikhail Mikhailovich Sotskov, representative of the USSR Ministry of Defense — questions read by unnamed moderator, Sotskov's answers in Russian with superimposed Pashto translation, Dost's and Azemi's answers in Dari — recorded]

[Text][Dost] Esteemed ladies and gentlemen, dear comrades. On behalf of the DRA Government I am delighted to welcome you in the capital of our revolutionary government. We have gathered here because of the return of (? a number of regiments) of the limited units of the internationalist Soviet troops to their homeland — the USSR.

The subject of our press conference is the internationalist assistance of the Soviet Union to the DRA and the mission of the limited units of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. This press conference will also specify a series of subjects for discussion. The organizer of this press conference sincerely hopes that it will prove to be a productive dialogue and will assist the international public to suitably assess the steps taken by the Soviet Union in the International Year of Peace.

Allow me introduce the (?participants) in this press conference: Comrade Mikhail Mikhailovich Sotskov, representative of the Soviet Union's Ministry of Defense; Comrade Azemi, first assistant to the DRA minister of defense.

Now permit me to allow Mikhail Mikhailovich Sotskov, the representative of the Soviet Union's Armed Forces, to speak.

[Sotskov] Gentlemen and comrades, as you know, in accordance with the agreement between the Governments of the Soviet Union and the DRA, in the second half of this month, six regiments from the limited units of the Soviet Union, together with all their equipment and attachments, will leave the territory of Afghanistan and return to their country. These units will return to their bases, that is to say, to the regions from where they had come to the DRA in order to discharge their duties. Let all those people who are interested in this be assured of this and of our principled stand with regard to Afghanistan which was made clear in the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress, and which was again reflected in the speech by Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in July this year in Vladivostok before the workers of that city.

The return of a number of the Soviet Union's units to their country from Afghanistan became possible as a result of the gradual stabilization of the Afghanistan situation. This (?step) is taken for the consolidation and practical implementation of the gains of the April Revolution, the implementation of the program of socioeconomic transformation, and the democratization of social life. The DRA's Armed Forces are learning in combat how to eliminate the counterrevolutionary bands. At present, they carry out these combat operations independently and aggressively. The large regiments of counterrevolutionaries are being crushed and their bases and hideouts have been wiped out in a number of provinces. However, despite this, armed attacks by the counterrevolutionaries have not yet completely stopped. The imperialist circles and regional reaction are striving to prevent normalization of the situation and they increase their subversive actions against the DRA. They increasingly broaden their assistance to the counterrevolutionaries and they wage anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan propaganda.

The Reagan administration, instead of making efforts to achieve normalization of events around Afghanistan and limiting foreign interference in the DRA's affairs, is trying to undermine the issue of the withdrawal of some units of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan.

U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger, when visiting Beijing, issued a press announcement in which he made a blatant fabrication. In particular he alleged that the Soviet Union, some weeks ago sent new military forces to Afghanistan so that after the withdrawal of the six regiments from the limited units of the Soviet Union, the total number of Soviet troops in Afghanistan would remain unchanged. [Words indistinct] is a clear lie aimed at damaging the peace loving policy of the Soviet Union.

In taking the decision on the partial withdrawal of its military units from the DRA the Soviet Union seriously and honestly once again is confirming its stand in the interests of a political solution of the Afghan issue.

Along with the decisions on the partial withdrawal of the Soviet military units from the DRA, the land of the Soviets intends this action to facilitate the creation of a favorable political climate for the progress of indirect talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan which will continue in Geneva, so that both country's succeed in achieving specific and constructive agreements.

The complete withdrawal of the limited military units of the Soviet Union from the DRA, after the consent of this country's government, can only take place when a guarantee is given for the cessation of armed interference in the internal affairs of this republic and its nonrepetition in the future.

In taking the decision on the withdrawal of six regiments from its limited units from the DRA, the Soviet Union wants those who organize or wage armed interference against the DRA and, as Comrade Gorbachev has announced, those who finance and wage the undeclared war against Afghanistan from the territory where this is being waged should know that if the intervention against Afghanistan continues the Soviet Union will not abandon its neighbor. Our internationalist solidarity with the people of Afghanistan cannot allow any kind of interference in the affairs of this country. Tomorrow the Soviet command begins the partial withdrawal of six regiments from DRA territory. The time and schedule of withdrawal have been agreed by the DRA leadership.

In following the resolutions of the Helsinki and Stockholm accords, the Soviet Defense Ministry invites you to take part in witnessing the partial withdrawal of six regiments from the limited units of the Soviet Union.

We are prepared to reply to your questions concerning the partial return of the Soviet limited units to their country. Thank you for your attention.

[Dost] You have heard (statements) by the representative of the Soviet chief of general staff. It is time for questions and anwers.

[Moderator] [Passage indistinct] the answer to this must be the cessation of interference from abroad. Do you notice such evidence? Answer to be given by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost.

[Dost] By making the decision to withdrawal six regiments, the DRA and the Soviet Union feel that this step will be assessed in a correct manner by those who have unleashed and are strengthening the undeclared war against the DRA. This will cause the cessation of interference from abroad in the internal affairs of our country. Unfortunately, so far we do not see such evidence; on the contrary, the interference is increasing. Despite this, we are hopeful that finally the Pakistan side and all those who are backing it will show common sense and if they are really interested in a political solution will give a reciprocal answer to this good will act. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by the representative of CBS from the United States: I want to put the same question to the minister of foreign affairs and representatives of the director of general staff of the USSR Ministry of Defense. How do you assess the future of Afghanistan and the defeat of the counterrevolutionary forces? Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] As the question is addressed to both of us I will try to answer it, and if the representative of the chief of general staff wishes for clarification and completion of the issue, he will complete my answer.

How do we look at the future of Afghanistan? We look at it with optimism and confidence. Peace will definitely be restored on Afghan territory; all our thoughts and endeavors are concentrated in this direction. However, as it is the characteristic of our time, the path toward peace passes through difficult struggle and, in our country, through struggle against aggression and counterrevolutionaries. This is a difficult struggle — first, because the counterrevolutionary elements continue to receive extensive assistance from abroad; and second, they can still rely on the large caches of weapons and ammunition which have been created over the years in the difficult mountainous terrain of the country. Most of these bases have been crushed, a large number of them, however, remain.

Each day our Armed Forces are being transformed into a confident shield of our revolution. At present we are also thinking about those major constructive duties for the peaceful construction which we are going to tackle after the final defeat of the counterrevolutionaries. Now our party and government are laying the foundations for the future peaceful life. These foundations are strong and just and will result in the growth of all creative forces of our people. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by (Elizabeth Headberg), representative of Radio Sweden: Please give us an explanation of the results of the talks in Geneva, held under the supervision of the UN representative, regarding the future of Afghanistan. What are the main subjects on the agenda of the current talks? What are the recent gains? Reply by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] As you know, as a result of the peaceful initiatives of the DRA and the good will efforts by the UN secretary general, talks between the DRA and Pakistan began in 1982 and have continued. So far, seven rounds of talks, including the second stage of the seventh round which has also taken place, have been held. We can say that these talks have now reached an important stage.

Unfortunately, due to pressure by U.S. imperialism and other reactionary circles, the other side is trying to raise the issue of the return of the limited units of the Soviet forces to their homeland as a fundamental problem, while the cause for the creation of the present situation around Afghanistan is interference from abroad. Cessation of interference can prepare the ground for the return of the forces. It is necessary to point out that despite the difficult stand of the opposite side in the talks, specific successes are being achieved as a result of the flexibility and constructive policy of the DRA. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by the representative of [word indistinct] Mr Ashqaryabin: Can we assess the recent claim by the U.S. secretary of defense alleging the arrival of more Soviet units as another effort to actively interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and to prevent the political solution of the events around Afghanistan? Reply by Mikhail Mikhailovich Sotskov:

[Sotskov] I replied to this question in my statement. Again I repeat: The Soviet Union has never sent fresh forces to Afghanistan. The unfounded claim by Mr Weinberger can only be assessed as another effort by the United States to find a new pretext for the intensification of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and to disrupt the talks on the normalization of the events around this country. I want to point out that in 1980 a number of the military forces of the Soviet Union's limited units, returned from Afghanistan to their country. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by (Elizabeth Headberg), representative of Radio Sweden: We assess this as the begining of the first stage of troop withdrawal. In your view, is there a second stage? When? And what final number will the Soviet troops be reduced to?

[Sotskov] The partial withdrawal of the Soviet Union's forces from Afghanistan is an act of good will which is taking place to assist in a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan. Whether or not a similar action will or will not take place in the future depends on the cessation of foreign interference in the internal affairs of this country. The total withdrawal of the Soviet limited units with the consent of the DRA Government, can only take place when the cessation of foreign armed aggression in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and its nonrepetition in the future is guaranteed. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by the correspondent of [name indistinct]: What do you expect from the eighth rounds of talks with Pakistan? Reply by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost.

[Dost] The present round is counted as the seventh round, of which so far two stages have been completed. Future talks will be a continuation of the seventh round. If the opposite side, in consideration of the interests of Pakistan's people, acts in the interest of peace and the restoration of security in the region and continues the talks in the spirit of genuine goodwill, we believe that we can succeed in subsequent fundamental progress. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by the representative of NHK from Japan: What is the nature of cooperation by the Soviet troops with the government forces of Afghanistan? Answer by Mikhail Mikhailovich Sotskov:

[Sotskov] This is an all-round assistance. In accordance with the request of the authorities of the DRA Armed Forces, the limited units of the Soviet Union assist the DRA Armed Forces in the task of military action against the counterrevolutionary bands who are being sent to this country from the territories of Pakistan and Iran.

Similarly, the Soviet Union's military forces cooperate with the DRA Armed Forces for the safeguarding and maintenance of communication lines, economic installations, and clearing roads, fields, and residential areas of mines. The Soviet troops escort convoys transporting materials needed by the projects and public in remote regions, [illegible] guard villages and hamlets from enemy attacks and, finally, they provide combat experience for the DRA Armed Forces and the security forces of Afghanistan. In this way they render necessary assistance to their friends in other fields too. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by the correspondent of *Mainichi* newspaper of Japan: What would be the effect of the withdrawal of six regiments on the combat capability of the limited units? Answer by Mikhail Mikhailovich Sotskov:

[Sotskov] Six regiments are not a small force. By this action, however, we want to bring a new impetus to the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

Concerning combat capability, it must be mentioned that combat capability would in no way be reduced. Of course, undoubtedly the role of the Soviet forces in combat operations will be reduced. However, this reduction will be substituted by the redistribution of duties and the grasp of combat experience by the DRA Armed Forces.

[Moderator] Question by the reporter of Hungarian radio: What is the stand of the Afghan side on a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan? What kind of initiative or proposals have been presented by the Afghan side? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] On the basis of its peaceful policy the DRA has taken an open, constructive, and at the same time flexible stand at the Geneva talks. The peaceful proposals of the DRA — reflected in the statements dated 14 May 1980 and 24 August 1981 — have won international esteem. The DRA believes that the fundamental causes of the creation of the present situation around Afghanistan are the armed interference and other aggressions by imperialism in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The key to the solution is the total cessation of these interventions, providing international guarantees concerning their cessation and nonrepetition. During talks the Afghan side repeatedly showed various kinds of compromise [word indistinct] the contents of which the Pakistani side and Mr Cordovez are aware.

[Moderator] Question by AFP reporter: How can you prove that the units which are in Afghanistan, will not be, or have not been, replaced by other units? How could it be proved that the units are truly returning to the Soviet Union and will not remain on the border? Answer by Comrade M. M. Sotskov:

[Sotskov] As you know, the Soviet Union has always been loyal to its pledges and it will also remain so in the future. All the units which are leaving Afghanistan will return to their permanent locations in the military areas in Turkestan and Central Asia, the areas they were brought from to DRA territory.

[Moderator] Question by the reporter of the *Morning Star*, England: Will the role of the Soviet military contingents in Afghanistan change after the withdrawal of the six regiments? And if not, what will their role be? Answer by Comrade Nabi Azemi:

[Azemi] The limited contingents of the Soviet Union in the DRA are here in our country as a result of the request of the DRA state. They have been invited to block foreign aggression shoulder to shoulder with the DRA Armed Forces. In addition, the Soviet contingents protect communications, military and economic projects, and so forth. In the future, too, such tasks will be carried out by the limited contingents of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan along with the DRA Armed Forces.

[Moderator] Question by Swedish daily *Nyheter*: Three of the regiments which are being pulled out are air defense regiments. In consideration of the fact that the guerrilla forces do not possess an air force, it is argued in the West that this withdrawal is insignificant. What do you say in this regard? Answer by Comrade Azemi:

[Azemi] I would like to state here from the beginning that it is not correct to describe those who inflict suffering on innocent people as partisan forces. It would be best to describe these forces as rebels and counterrevolutionaries. In reply, I would like to say that all units returning to their country, including the air defense regiments, are carrying out the protection of communications and important projects in the conditions of Afghanistan and are also carrying out their duties, along with the air defense forces of the DRA, in repelling possible air attacks by the enemy. These are, of course, all combat duties and should be taken into consideration.

[Moderator] Another question by the same correspondent: How do you assess the recent action by the resistance forces in the Kabul region? Answer by Comrade Nabi Azemi:

[Azemi] All actions by the rebels or counterrevolutionaries in the Kabul vicinity are directed against peaceful inhabitants. By firing surface-to-surface missiles from very great distances they are trying to impose losses on the civil and peaceful inhabitants and to cause damage to them and disrupt their security. Despite all strivings of the counterrevolutionaries, some time ago a 500-man band near Kabul, after perceiving the antinational character of the rebels, ended their activities and joined the ranks of the DRA Armed Forces. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by the correspondent of [name indistinct] from Japan: The Geneva talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan have now reached a stalemate. Does this mean the talks have completely failed? Is there a possibility of resuming the Geneva talks in the near future? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] We do not agree that the Geneva talks have reached a stalemate. Not only has the work for the continuation of talks not been abandoned but we are hoping that in the near future the special representative of the UN secretary general — D. Cordovez — will determine the date for convening the next round. The difficulties in the talks are that the Pakistani side is pursuing its nonobjective conditions regarding the return of units, and is showing a lack of the necessary interest in the solution of serious issues concerning the normalization of the situation, as well as regarding the cessation of intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

All issues depend on this, that the fourth document on a political solution, that is to say, the link between intervention and the withdrawal of units, is not only linked to the return of the limited units of the Soviet Union, but is primarily linked to the cessation of intervention and its nonrepetition, as well as to the return of refugees to their country. It should not be forgotten that without the participation of Iran in a political solution of the issues, since intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan is taking place from its territory, we cannot achieve an all-round solution of this issue.

[Moderator] Question by the MTI, Hungary: What measures have been taken to enable the Afghan people's Army to carry out the tasks of these six regiments? Answer by Comrade Nabi Azemi:

[Azemi] Additional measures, and a great number of them, have been taken to enhance their combat ability, their combat and political education and training, the quantitative and qualitative level of the units and companies, to raise military discipline, and to improve the standard of living of the troops. Also, the redistribution of the duties of units of the Armed Forces has been undertaken.

[Moderator] Question by the same reporter: What is the scale of the undeclared war? What successes have been achieved recently in the struggle against the counterrevolution? Answer by Comrade Nabi Azemi:

[Azemi] The imperialist countries are continuing an undeclared war against Afghanistan. They have not only not reduced this war, they are increasing the scale of military assistance to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries. However, the daily increasing power of the Afghan Armed Forces has recently resulted in inflicting considerable blows against the enemy bands, particularly in Herat, Kabul, and Paktia Provinces.

[Moderator] Question by the same Hungarian reporter: In the event of national reconciliation in the country, will the leaders of the counterrevolution be given a role in the government? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] In our efforts to reach national reconciliation, establish peace and tranquility, and cease bloodshed in our ancient land, we are prepared and ready, even to the extent of (?forming) a government that embraces the representatives of the opposition forces who are living abroad and who are ready to take part in the common work in the interests of the country. Our stand in this regard has been categorically stated in the 19th plenum of the PDPA Central Committee.

[Moderator] Question by (Taymur Hayder) from the Soviet Union: The Soviet units which are leaving Afghanistan, have fought shoulder to shoulder with Afghans against the enemies of the Afghan revolution. Will they and the Afghan Army units keep their relations and friendship? Answer by Comrade Azemi:

[Azemi] Undoubtedly they will. The friendship and fraternity which has come about during the common struggle against the counterrevolution has, without any doubt, been broadened and will be kept for ever.

[Moderator] Question by Comrade Kawun, editor of the daily *Haqiqat-e Enqelab-e Sawr*: Comrade Dost, you spoke about the agreed Afghan-Soviet proposals concerning the solution of the situation around Afghanistan through peaceful means. Please state what reciprocal measures are being provided by the forces who are fanning an undeclared war against the DRA? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] Unfortunately, our jointly agreed Afghan-Soviet constructive proposals have still not found the correct understanding and reply on the part of those to whom these initiatives have been addressed. As the popular wisdom has it, what can be achieved with patience cannot be obtained by war.

[Moderator] Question by the BTA reporter, Bulgaria: Are any measures expected from the counterrevolution in connection with the normalization of the situation in Afghanistan as a result of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from the DRA? Answer by Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] The return of the six regiments is a testimony to our efforts to provide a suitable situation for the political solution of the so-called question of Afghanistan. I would like the counterrevolution to realize this fact and to take a step toward the normalization of the situation in the country, that is, to put an end to the undeclared war which is supported by imperialist circles.

[Moderator] Question by a Spanish correspondent: Are you confident that without the Soviet forces you will be able to retain power? Answer by Comrade Azemi:

[Azemi] Yes. I am confident that we will retain power. However, I would like to state that we have invited the limited units of the Soviet Union because a broad undeclared war has been unleashed against our country. Whenever interventions in the internal affairs of our country cease and their nonrepetition is guaranteed you can be sure that the people of Afghanistan and its government will no longer need the assistance of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union. Let no one expect us to abandon friendship with our brother, the Soviet Union. Our friendship will live for centuries.

[Moderator] Question by the reporter of CSSR television: How do you assess the chance of success in talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] In consideration of the DRA's principled and flexible approach we should have expected positive results at the Geneva talks. Despite the difficult stand of the Pakistani side, during the seven rounds of talks, three documents on a political solution have actually been prepared. During the seventh round of talks we discussed the final document, that is to say the fourth document which contains, on the one hand, the main reciprocal link of the cessation of intervention, an international guarantee, and on the other hand, the return of refugees with the return of the limited units of the Soviet Union to their homeland. Specific progress has also been made in the draft and compilation of this document. If the Pakistani side displays the same realistic and political flexibility, the causes which prevent the achievement of final agreements will be eliminated. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by the correspondent of FRG television: How many years have these six regiments which are returning to their homeland been fighting in Afghanistan? Answer by Comrade Mikhail Mikhailovich Sotskov:

[Sotskov] Those who are returning, together with other units, arrived in 1979 to render assistance to the Afghan Army. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by [name indistinct] from the USSR: Is there any evidence for a proper assessment of the peaceful step of the USSR and DRA on the part of the Government of Pakistan and its willingness to give a reciprocal reply? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] We can prove that the Pakistani Government not only has not made a proper assessment of the withdrawal of six regiments of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan, but has embarked on a series of new provocative actions against the DRA. An example of this is the mass shelling on Spin Buldak, the border city of Qandahar, which resulted in destruction and numerous casualties among the peaceful inhabitants, including women and children. Moreover, the export of counterrevolutionary bands to the territory of the DRA who are equipped with most modern weapons, is continuing. Thank you.

[Moderator] Another question by [name indistinct] from the USSR: A number of correspondents have raised the issue that much has been said and written about the disinterested assistance of the USSR to the people of Afghanistan. What can you say about such assistance? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] The assistance which Afghanistan receives on the basis of grant-in-aid holds a prominent place in the economic cooperation of the Soviet Union with the DRA. In the post-revolution years such assistance has reached over $452 million. This figure is more than one-third of the total volume of the DRA's economic cooperation with the Soviet Union. [as heard] The free aid covers the supply of foodstuffs and consumer and industrial commodities. The variety of such assistance covers 500 items. Among these the most important are wheat, vegetable oil, sugar, flour, fabrics, and so forth.

As can be seen, basic commodities arrive as free aid which meets the need of the inhabitants in basic materials. The volume of this assistance will be increased in the current 5-year plan. Thanks to the free aid, the factor of debts in the post-revolution years has been kept to a low level. This means that only 15-17 percent of the DRA export revenue is being spent on the repayment of debts and credits. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by the Spanish correspondent: What percentage of the Afghan territory is under the control of the government forces? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] The best answer to your question is the fact that elections to the local organs of state power and administration in all provinces of the country have now been completed in a democratic manner. We could state that the Armed Forces are active in those areas where the terrorist bands appear.

[Moderator] Question by Salam M[illegible]safer, correspondent of *Al-Anba'* daily from Kuwait: The conference of the heads of states of the Islamic countries will be held in Kuwait at the beginning of next year. Will the DRA take part in this conference? How can we assess Afghanistan's relations with the countries of the Gulf region? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] The DRA has repeatedly emphasized that it is ready to take part in the work of the Islamic Conference Organization. Regrettably, we are informed that the reactionary circles of this organization, at the insistence of their imperialist masters, have reached the conclusion that Afghanistan is not able to discharge its role in the work of this conference. On the other hand, Afghanistan, as an Islamic country, is ready for active cooperation within the framework of this organization, for the solution of immediate problems facing the participant countries. As for our relations with the Gulf states, we have historic and traditional relations with some of them. We want to establish such relations with other states in the region too. However, this depends not only on the Afghan side but also on these states. Thank you

[Moderator] Question by [name indistinct] daily from Japan: Do you expect that the leadership of Pakistan will recognize Najibullah's leadership? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] This question should have been directed to the Pakistani authorities. However, it must be said, although this question is very strange, the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul is, as you all know, active, and the DRA Embassy in Islamabad is also active. Both officially represent their respective countries and they are active. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by the correspondent of *Die Zeit* from the FRG: Do you know that a large number of counterrevolutionary bandits are being trained by the CIA in the surroundings of Munich for further activities inside the DRA? What importance do you attach to this from a military point of view? How do you assess the political role of the FRG in the undeclared war against the DRA? Reply by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] The undesirable role of the FRG in the undeclared war against the DRA is quite clear to the world public. This has been repeatedly mentioned in the statements by the Afghan leadership as well as in the Afghan protest notes addressed to the FRG Government; the material and financial assistance extended to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries, inviting their chiefs to Bonn at an official level, the secret dispatch of Bundestag delegates to DRA territory, and the broad subversive propaganda activities which are being carried out from the territory of the FRG, all of these are undeniable testimony to the open interference of the FRG in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Thank you for giving us information on the training center of the enemies in the Munich area.

The FRG can play a positive role in the solution of events around Afghanistan. However, in order to do this, the goodwill of the present [FRG] leadership is required. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by the Finnish correspondent: What is the percentage of nonparty members in the Revolutionary Council? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] The answer to this question will shed light on other aspects too. A while ago, in the DRA Revolutionary Council, 97 percent of the party members had been participating. [sentence as heard] However, now, after the action taken to broaden the social pillars of the party and government, this figure is 39 percent. Representatives of nearly all strata and social groups and the majority of the country's nationalities have been included in its composition. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by the correspondent of *Rude Pravo* from the CSSR: How do you assess the democratization process of Afghan society, and how do the various groups of the population take part in the political and social life of the country? Answer by Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] The process of democratization in our society (?stems) from the nature of the April Revolution and the power which has come into being from its victory. Our national democracy is a home which accomodates every one. We are making efforts so that all [word indistinct], national and patriotic forces can take a suitable part in the new revolutionary life. [Passage indistinct], the most credible and largest of them is the National Fatherland Front [NFF] which has a membership of about 800,000. In this front, around 200,000 from the Democratic Youth Organization, and 255,000 from trade unions, the Nationwide Council of the Women of Afghanistan, the Council of Peasant Cooperatives, the Council of Ulema and Clergy, and creative unions, etc., have been united as collective members on the basis of voluntary membership. The PDPA is the [word indistinct] political force, which at present has a full and candidate membership of more than 160,000. The PDPA, with equal rights to other organizations, is in the membership of the NFF. However, the process of democratization should also include national, social, and political forces including nonrevolutionary forces in order to give a new momentum to this process. The party and the state power have put forward the idea of national reconciliation and have taken practical steps at all levels in order to implement this (?cooperation). The attraction of nonparty members, individuals, mullahs, esteemed and well-known ulema, representatives of various nationalities, tribal leaders and elders to local organs of the state power and administration is assisting this objective. However, all the above-mentioned points are just beginning. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by the reporter of *(?Neu Berliner Illustrirte)* from the GDR: What internal and external conditions will provide the grounds for the further withdrawal of the Soviet units? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] As we have repeatedly stated, the first and most important condition for the return of the Soviet forces is the complete cessation of external interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Therefore, the fact that the armed counterrevolutionaries — created by imperialism and regional reaction — are continuing their activity should be taken into consideration. This fact should not be forgotten.

[Moderator] Question by the reporter of the daily *Al-Anba'* of Kuwait: How do the Israelis help the counterrevolution? Answer by Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] Yes, the participation of Israel in this war is a fact. It provides financial assistance and assistance with equipment and information. We also have information in hand that Israeli instructors are present in the training camps of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries. The facts concerning the cooperation of the Israeli secret services in training the enemies have been reflected upon in a book by D.R. Gopal, an Indian journalist, which was published a year ago. This is one of the unbelieveable contradictions of our times, that is, Zionists and Arab reactionaries are united against the revolutionary people of Afghanistan for imperialist interests.

[Moderator] Question by a reporter of Finnish radio and television: The counterrevolutionaries are aware that the limited contingents are pulling out in the course of 2 weeks of this month. What sort of threat can the counterrevolutionaries pose as they return home? Answer by Comrade Sotskov:

[Sotskov] Those who are returning home are not masses of people but are regiments who are sufficiently armed and ready with combat experience. In the event of a surprise attack by the bands of rebels, we have considered necessary measures.

[Moderator] Question by the reporter of the daily *Asahi*, Japan: Could you explain the system of recruitment and call up of the government forces? Answer by Comrade Nabi Azemi:

[Azemi] In accordance with the laws of the DRA, the youths who have reached the age of 18 are conscripted to the Army. This is the work of the military commissariat. As a result of widespread explanatory and propaganda work, volunteers are more and more actively joining the Armed Forces. In connection with conscription and call-up during the current year, it should be said that in the course of the pest 5 months the number of youths who have joined the ranks of the Armed Forces is equal to those who joined last year.

[Moderator] Question by the correspondent of Bulgarian television: During our stay in Afghanistan we had the opportunity to observe the increasing combat power of the Afghan Army. Could you tell us when the program of shielding the borders of Afghanistan will be carried out? Answer by Comrade Nabi Azemi:

[Azemi] The shielding of borders in the conditions of peace in the country [short break in transmission]. In the first instance the problem can be solved with the power of the border forces. But in the second instance this task is carried out with the joint efforts of the Army and people. How is this program implemented? It should be stated that [word indistinct] and well-equipped border forces have been created in our country. With their power most of the main supply routes of bands and their weapons and ammunition convoys have been shielded. The inhabitants of border regions and militias are forming voluntary border units and detatchments. One of the main tasks comprises the shielding of the country's eastern border. The solution of this task to a large extent depends on the joint efforts with Pashtun tribes. The state has paid great attention to Pashtun tribes and is holding assemblies and is settling them in their regions in accordance with the social and economic program. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by reporter of Swedish radio: According to a report by *Pravda*, the DRA Government is engaged in talks with 92 antigovernment groups. Who are these groups and how are the talks progressing? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] More of those who have been deceived by the counterrevolution and have joined the armed groups who are fighting against the government forces, including their leaders, have realized the futility of their struggle and a great number of them are realizing the deceptive nature of the so-called Islamic struggle against the government. They have seen with their own eyes the observance of and respect for Islam in the DRA. In consideration of these fcts, the organs of the state power are patiently advancing the work of explanation and are helping those who have joined the bands to understand the truth. These organs are engaged in talking to them to encourage them to cease their futile struggle. The strict observance of the conditions of general amnesty exonerate from responsibility those who voluntarily lay down their arms. This plays a considerable role in achieving positive results in this work.

[Moderator] Question by the reporter of the daily *Mainichi Shimbun*, Japan: What is the role of Mr Karmal today? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] Comrade Babrak Karmal is a member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and is president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. An assessment of his activities has been carried out at the 18th and 19th plenums of the party Central Committee.

[Moderator] Question by the reporter of Bulgarian television: The highway which passes through the Salang Pass is called the road of life. Several times we have seen and studied how the consumer goods which are needed by the people of the DRA are transported with difficulty along this highway. What could you tell us about the material losses which have been inflicted as a result of the activities of the counterrevolutionary forces? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] The losses which our economy has suffered are of an indirect and a direct nature. The direct losses include dozens of industrial projects, more than 2,000 schools, half of the public health establishments, hundreds of mosques, 50 percent of power lines, and so forth at a total value of more than 45 billion afghani. The indirect losses are the stagnation of economic development and the level of national revenue. This loss is much more than the direct losses. The counterrevolution has made the Salang highway the main target of its terrorist actions. We truly call this highway the road of life. The militant fraternity between the Afghan and Soviet soldiers has been clearly manifested in protecting this highway. All efforts by the counterrevolution in connection with the destruction of the highway have been foiled. I describe counterrevolutionary activity along this highway as blind terrorism, because this terrorism is directed against drivers, passengers, and the transport of peaceful goods.

[Moderator] Question by the reporter of the *Asahi* daily, Japan: My question relates to the talks between the Soviet and the U.S. leaders. Do you think these talks will have a positive influence on the Afghanistan question? What do you expect of these talks? Answer by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost:

[Dost] These talks are of such dimensions and importance that they must influence the unsolved problems which exist and are of concern to the whole of mankind, that is general disarmament and the prevention of nuclear catastrophe. These talks could create a suitable atmosphere and provide the possibilities for the improvement of the international situation and in particular the regional situation.

[Moderator] Comrade [name indistinct], reporter of Soviet television: As a result of an agreement with the government, the Soviet government is pulling out six regiments. What additional steps are expected in this regard? Answer by Comrade Skotsov:

[Stotskov] As you know, it was announced at the 27th CPSU Congress that the Soviet Union is ready to withdraw its forces which are present in this country at the request of the Government of Afghanistan. Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said in his statement in Vladivostok that even the time for the gradual withdrawal of the Soviet contingents has been agreed upon with the Afghan side. The United States and other imperialist countries are afraid of the reduction of tension around Afghanistan and the weakness of their stands in the Middle East. The U.S. Administration is even concerned about the [words indistinct] which has been created as a result of the decision of the Soviet Union concerning the partial withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan. Thus, it is engaged in taking propaganda measures which are directed at the neutralization of the positive effects of this step by the Soviet

Union. The correct assessment of the situation indicates that the questions concerning Afghanistan can be solved only through peaceful means. The Soviet Union is acting in precisely this manner, as you can see.

[Moderator] Esteemed journalists and dear audience, these were replies to questions which were submitted in writing by the respected journalists. We are before you to answer your oral questions. Before that, however, you are respectfully asked to observe order and discipline and to take your turn. Thank you.

[Unidentified reporter speaking in English] How many Soviet troops will be withdrawn by the end of this month? How many will remain in Afghanistan after this withdrawal?

[Stotskov] From 15 October to the end of the month some six regiments, totalling about (?8,000) men, will leave Afghan soil for their country. The number of units which will remain in Afghanistan is not large and they will continue to carry out their duties. Six regiments will return to their country. What is important is the decision to take such a measure by which the Soviet Union wants the situation around Afghanistan to be solved through political means. [passage indistinct]

[Unidentified questioner] My question is addressed to Shah Muhammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs: Could you please tell us how you assess the talks between the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union in Reykjavik? What sort of relation do you perceive between this meeting and the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan?

[Dost] There is one common aspect which exists between the meeting of the leaders of the Soviet Union and the U.S. in the capital of Iceland and the withdrawal of the six regiments of the limited military contingents in Afghanistan, and that is that the meeting was intended to discuss the very important and fundamental question of complete disarmament and limitation of weapons and the establishment of peace and security in the world and the salvation of mankind from nuclear catastrophe. These were the main goals which were discussed there. On the other hand, there is the withdrawal of the six regiments of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union.

When the DRA and the Soviet Union decided that six regiments should return to their country, we wanted on the one hand to show our true and serious intention and will toward seeking a peaceful solution to the situation around Afghanistan and, on the other hand, we had in mind that such a move would give further dynamism to the Geneva talks. If it was perceived with goodwill by the opposite side, that is by Pakistan and those supporting it, and if they reciprocated this action, that is if they ceased intervention in the internal affairs of the DRA, it would have decisively affected, reduced tension, and eventually would have brought peace and security to the region and in the end throughout the world. [passage indistinct]

[Stoskov] You know that the limited contingents of the Soviet Union came to Afghanistan at the request of the DRA Government. They came in order to, along with the Armed Forces of the DRA, repel aggression. The young Afghan Army has learned combat experience from the Soviet soldiers and together with them has carried out its duties. They had battles, too, before them and as you know in battle they shoot and are shot at. Of course we had losses, but the losses were not to the extent the Western press propaganda said they were — that the Soviets are pulling out its limited military contingents because it has suffered great losses.

(Dominique Dhombres), journalist from *Le Monde*: [Question in French with superimposed Dari translation] As you said, the new constitution will come into force in the near future. You also said that the political forces abroad will be asked to join the government. Please explain who will be the future head of state, what will be the form of this political coalition, and which of the political forces who are now fighting against you will take part in this coalition? Also, it is rumored that the new constitution will allow the election of a new head of state without him being a party member.

[Dost] The draft of the new DRA constitution is almost completed, and when it is approved by the Revolutionary Council it will be put forward for referendum. It will then finally be approved by the Grand Assembly of the DRA after which it gains legal status. As was said in the speech by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and before that in the general amnesty decree, all those people who are living abroad can return to Afghanistan and take part in the construction of the new Afghanistan. Not only can they do this, they can also take part in the structure of the government and social organizations including the NFF. When the new constitution comes into force, this will, of course, entail changes. At that time we will have a people's national assembly. A state assembly will be formed and also the new Council of Ministers will be formed. The Revolutionary Council will be abolished. [passage indistinct]

[Sotskov in Russian with superimposed Dari translation] I again repeat that the six regiments from the limited contingents of the Soviet Union whose return begins tomorrow will be stationed in Soviet territory in the areas of Turkestan and Soviet Central Asia. [words indistinct]. If you had paid proper attention to my replies and those by the deputy defense minister of Afghanistan, the Armed Forces of the DRA are in a position to carry out combat operations independently. They have been consolidated and their numbers increased. Some duties of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union will now be taken up by the Army of the DRA and some by the units and companies of the DRA Sarandoy.

Correspondent of the *Krasnaya Zvezda*, organ of the Defense Ministry of the Soviet Union. The question is directed at Comrade Azemi: [Question in Russian with superimposed Dari translation] Some time ago we saw that Soviet medals of people's friendship were awarded to Afghan pilots who, in the course of fighting against the counterrevolution, heroically saved the lives of the personnel of the Soviet Union. Please tell us how many Soviet personnel have received Afghan medals and awards for their humanitarian assistance of the people of Afghanistan.

[Azemi] Thank you. More than 2,000 soldiers, NCO's, and officers of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan have received DRA medals and awards.

[Moderator] Now, at the end of today's press conference, a statement will be read by Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost, DRA minister of foreign affairs.

[Dost] Esteemed comrades and friends, ladies and gentlemen. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking part in this press conference. With the (?possibilities) available to us (?we would like) to express our views frankly about the acute and difficult issues in Afghanistan and its surroundings. We do not conceal our problems. However, it would be unjust and (?unrealistic) if their causes were [word indistinct]. One of the main causes is the undeclared war against Afghanistan and broad intervention in our affairs from outside. We also do not conceal the fact that we need your help, so that the truth about our country and revolution becomes known to the people of the world. With this act we can speed up and facilitate the process of stabilizing the situation in the country and in all of the region, which is also our aim. I would like to stress once again that the internationalist solidarity and assistance of the Soviet Union to our country is a vital and important factor in removing our problems and achieving peace and [word indistinct] in the land of Afghans. The Afghan-Soviet cooperation is a (?multidimension) cooperation. Our people regard Afghan-Soviet friendship as their national wealth and preserve it forever as the pupil of the eye. Allow me again to thank you for attending and for your interest in today's press conference, and I wish you creative successes. We will always be glad to see you in our country. Thank you. [applause]

USSR's Kapitsa Continues To Meet With Delhi Officials

BK171614 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Oct 86

[Text] The Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mr Mikhail Kapitsa, met the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K. R. Narayanan, in New Delhi today. He also called on the chairman of the policy advisory committee, Mr G. Parthasarathy, and had a separate meeting with officials of the External Affairs Ministry. Mr Kapitsa apprised the Indian side about the recent summit at Reykjavik. He said an agreement had almost been reached on strategic weapons, tactical weapons, and test ban, but differences persisted on the new space-weapons system. Briefing newsmen about Mr Kapitsa's talks in New Delhi, an official spokesman said it is a matter of satisfaction for people the world over that the door for a settlement is still open.

Bharatiya Janata Criticizes Government Performance

BK191558 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Oct 86

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party has alleged that the government has failed to check unemployment and price rise. A statement issued at the end of the 3-day meeting of the party's national executives in Jammu today also criticized the government for the deterioration in relations with neighbors and the Punjab, Assam, and Mizoram agreements. Referring to the so-called Ghurkaland agitation, the party said it is antinational. The party president, Mr L.K. Advani, released the statement at a press conference. He demanded enactment of the legislation on electoral reforms in the coming session of Parliament and wanted the government to convene an all-party meet to discuss the issue.

Spokesman on Issues To Be Discussed at SARC Summit

BK171307 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 17 Oct 86

[Text] Extension of mutual cooperation to new areas will be one of the most important subjects to be considered at the SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit to be held in Bangalore next month. Among these are the central economic areas like trade, industry, and financial relations. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that efforts will be made at least to draw up some procedure to pursue forward the scope for cooperation in these areas. The spokesman was briefing newsmen about the [SARC] summit scheduled to be held from the 15th to the 17th of next month. Heads of state or government of the seven member countries — namely India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Nepal, Maldives, and Sri Lanka — will arrive in Bangalore on the 15th.

States Asked 'To Prevent' Border Infiltration

BK181559 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Oct 86

[Text] The center has asked state governments to take strong measures to prevent infiltration from across the international border. Instructions have also been issued to deport all illegal entrants into the country. The minister of state for internal security, Mr Arun Nehru, said this while talking to newsmen at Bhuj in the Kutch District of Gujarat today. The minister made an extensive survey of the border areas. Replying to a question, Mr Nehru said some success has been achieved in preventing infiltration as a result of several measures taken recently.

In Rajasthan, night curfew is being imposed 500 meters within the boundary all along the international border to check infiltration. The state assembly was informed that a scheme to issue identity cards to the citizens in the four border tehsils [revenue areas] of the districts of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, and Sri Ganganagar have also been taken up on an experimental basis. The assembly resumed its sitting today after it was adjourned sine die on the 4th of last month.

AFP: 'Moderate Sikh Leader' Gunned Down in Punjab

BK181549 Hong Kong AFP in English 1514 GMT 18 Oct 86

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 18 (AFP) — A moderate Sikh leader and a school teacher were gunned down in renewed violence in the Punjab as Security Forces rounded up three suspected Sikh militants in the troubled north Indian state, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) said Saturday.

Kirpal Singh, an activist of the ruling Sikh Akali Dal Party, was shot dead at Naushera Panuan village in the border district of Amritsar by unidentified men who fled after dumping his body in a field, the news agency said. The Akali Dal, which governs the Punjab, is a moderate Sikh party opposed to the militants' demand for an independent Sikh homeland. Many of its members and leaders have been killed by the militants. The teacher was gunned down on a bridge near Jaura village also in Amritsar District, PTI said, without identifying either the victim or the killers.

The three suspected militants were all arrested in Amritsar, PTI said. Jaimal Singh and Gurbachan Singh were charged with harbouring fellow guerrillas. Harrinder Singh was detained in connection with a murder case.

Supreme Court President Leads Tehran Friday Prayers

LD171915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 86

[Text] Our country's faithful and committed congregations took part in Friday prayer venues throughout the country today and once again renewed their pledge to the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution and of the imposed war by shouting: "War, war until victory"! The God-seeking citizens of Tehran, gathered at Tehran university and performed the Friday prayers under the imamate of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, expressing support for the combatants of Islam's retaliatory measures and the firing of a missile at Baghdad as punishment for the Ba'thist aggressors.

In his prayer sermon the Supreme Court president expressed congratulations on the birthday of the blessed imam Musa al-Kazim — peace be upon him — and paid tribute to the martyr of the altar, Ayatollah Ashrafi-Esfahani. He referred to the war, saying: In the Fath-1 operations the combatants of Islam once again demonstrated their power to the helpless enemy. These operations showed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is able, whenever necessary, to deliver its blow to the enemy, even deep inside his territory.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili added: The Iraqi regime, which has a $60 billion debt, is no longer able to continue the war. But the Islamic Republic of Iran owes nothing to anyone, thanks to God's assistance and its people's generosity.

The Supreme Court president noted the country's situation regarding agricultural produce and called on officials of the Agriculture Ministry and the reconstruction jihad to strive toward reviving agriculture as much as possible. He continued: We hope that with the passage of the bill on wasteland in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and the clarification of the status of several thousand hectares of wasteland, our country will become self-sufficient in terms of agricultural produce.

Musavi Returns From Visit to GDR, Hungary

LD172146 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 17 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 17 IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi returned home Friday at the end of his visit to German Democratic Republic and Hungary and was met at the airport by officials as well as several foreign envoys.

During his four-day visit to these two East European countries Musavi discussed ways to improve and expand economic relations with ranking GDR and Hungarian officials. Several letters of understanding were signed in the visits and preparations made for the inking of several others. The prime minister had explained Iran's stance on various issues during two separate press conferences in Berlin and Budapest where he reiterated continuation of the war until eventual victory.

Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, Industries Minister Gholam Reza Shafe'i, and acting Foreign Minister 'Ali-Mohammad Besharati accompany Musavi on the his [as received] tour.

Terms Visit 'Successful'

LD181019 Tehran IRNA in English 0639 GMT 18 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 18, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Friday described his five-day visit to East Germany and Hungary as successful and said that negotiations were held in a "friendly atmosphere".

Speaking to IRNA at Tehran Mehrabad International Airport, he said that in talks with East German and Hungarian officials issues related to mutual relations and in post-revolutionary period were discussed.

Talks centered on mutual political, economic, and cultural ties and major international issues. It was explained to the officials of the two countries that various political systems of the world should realise that their friendly or hostile attitudes towards the Islamic Revolution of Iran will affect relations of Muslims with these countries, he added.

More on issues discussed, he said that stance of Iran towards the Zionist regime, the Iraqi-imposed war, Afghanistan crisis, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America were explained and both sides exchanged views on these issues.

Briefs Cabinet on Visit

LD191035 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT 19 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 19 IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i here Sunday presided over a session of the Cabinet ministers which was also attended by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

During the session, the prime minister reported outcome of his recent visits to East Germany and Hungary.

Stressing that his talks with heads of the two states were held in an atmosphere of understanding, Premier Musavi described economic and political outcome of his visit as "positive." The talks, he said, will have positive effect on Iran's relations with East Germany and Hungary.

Reviews Visit With Khomeyni

LD201206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, following his trips to the GDR and Hungary, met with Imam Khomeyni this morning and briefed him on his trips and their outcome.

In the course of this meeting, at which ministers of reconstruction crusade and energy, and Hojjat ol-Eslam val Muslemin Haj Sheykh Hasan Sane'i, the imam's representative and the supervisor of the 15th Khordad foundation were present, a report was submitted to the imam on the planning and the method of construction of the great Qom dam. Imam Khomeyni made recommendations on speeding up the dam's construction and confirmed Mr Sane'i's proposal to change the name from the Qom dam to 15th Khordad dam.

Agriculture Minister on Economic Talks With Hungarians

LD181228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 18 Oct 86

[Text] In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent about the outcome of the fourth Iranian-Hungarian joint commission, Agriculture Minister Zali said: At the fourth session areas of cooperation between the two countries were identified, leading to the signing of a memorandum of understanding. On trade matters it was decided that Iran and Hungary should make greater efforts in terms of providing more opportunities to raise trade exchange, in such a way as to enable us to raise the trade turnover annually to $200 billion [as heard].

Mr Zali went on: On technological matters, the areas of cooperation relating to power stations and agricultural fields were identified. A number of Hungarian experts have been invited to Iran for research and educational cooperation, particularly in mushroom production and the development of marine life and other products. As for the export of nonoil products, it was decided to send a delegation to Hungary to ascertain the figures and types of products involved.

IRNA Cited on Kuwaiti Expulsion of 11 Iranians

LD200401 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 19 Oct 86

[Text] Pursuing its hostile policies against the Islamic Revolution, the Kuwaiti Government expelled 11 more Iranians Saturday [18 October].

According to an IRNA report, the people, who had legal permits to reside in Kuwait, arrived in Ganaveh port in motorboats. They were housed in the refugee camp in Bushehr.

This was the second group of Iranians deported from Kuwait during the past 4 days. Last Friday, six Iranians who had legal permits to reside in Kuwait were deported.

Minister Tours Front; Comments on FRG 'Attack'

LD172238 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 17 Oct 86

[Text] Ilam, Oct 17, IRNA — Minister of Ershad-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami visited headquarters of the Iranian Muslim combatants in Salehabad region Friday.

The minister also toured front lines in Karbala-1 region in Mehran where he talked with Muslim combatants stationed in the area, and praised them for their victories.

Meanwhile, Hoj. Khatami told reporters in Bakhtaran Wednesday that propaganda is an important weapon in the hand of the global powers which are trying to keep their domination of the mass media and influence big news agencies.

Hoj. Khatami said that the ministry has more than 30 representative offices in 18 countries which distribute publications showing films and establish cultural ties. The ministry also has seven magazines in different languages with combined print run of 60,000, Khatami said.

On attack of counterrevolutionaries on Iranian pavilion in West Germany, the minister said that diplomatic measures have been taken both in Tehran and Bonn in connection with the issue, but it should be said that such act shows a flaw in the German government's claim of freedom of thought in the country.

Commander on Readiness To Take 'Retaliatory Measures'

LD171911 Tehran IRNA in English 1903 GMT 17 Oct 86

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov., Oct 17, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran will prevent Iraq from committing new atrocities such as attacking residential and industrial regions through their decisive fight in the war fronts, said Colonel 'Ali Sayyad-Shirazi here Friday.

Col Shirazi told IRNA that the Islamic Republic is and will always be ready to retaliate the Baghdad government's attacks on Iran's residential areas.

Col Shirazi emphasised that Iran will not pound Iraq's defenseless civilians in its reprisal strikes, saying that the Islamic Republic stands ready to embark upon retaliatory measures. He added, "Iran has the necessary power and weaponry to do so."

Shirazi termed Iraq's crimes in attacking residential and industrial areas as "mere futility", saying that these raids can never force the Islamic Republic to abandon its holy defense and accept "an imposed peace".

Colonel Shirazi pointed out that the ruling regime in Iraq has lost its credibility. He added that the world's political masterminds have given up hope for the viability of the Ba'thist regime.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,627

LD171701 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 17 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 17, IRNA — Iraqi economic-military centers in the cities of Basra and Khanaqin sustained considerable damage when they were hit by Iranian long-range artillery fire on Thursday and Friday.

Communique No 2,627 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran also said that artillery fire of Muslim combatants on Iraqi positions in northwestern fronts set afire a munitions dump and destroyed several bunkers and observation posts.

Iraqi attempts to relocate its troops in Qasr-e Shirin and Mehran operational regions were checked by Islamic combatants. A motor pool, a big munitions depot, and some weaponry emplacements were destroyed in the shelling, the communique said.

The communique said several Iraqi military vehicles were destroyed and a number of enemy soldiers killed as their supply routes and defensive lines came under Iranian artillery fire in southern fronts. Artillery fire of the Muslim combatants also forced an Iraqi patrol unit to flee from Chazzabeh operational region.

Gendarmerie forces of the Islamic Republic disrupted Iraqi engineering activities in the areas under their control inflicting casualties and losses on them, said the communique.

The city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province sustained some damage as a result of Iraqi artillery fire over the past week, the communique concluded.

33 Iraqis Killed on Bakhtaran, Ilam Fronts

LD171825 Tehran IRNA in English 1804 GMT 17 Oct 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Oct 17, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran killed or wounded 33 Iraqi troops in Bakhtaran and Ilam war fronts over Thursday and Friday.

A motor pool, a munitions depot, and five bunkers of the Iraqi soldiers were destroyed in the said fronts, and several vehicles of a motor pool were set ablaze.

Communique No 2,628

LD181534 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 18 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 18, IRNA — At least 50 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one enemy watch-tower, four observation posts, two vehicles, and one mortar launcher destroyed in the southern fronts by Iranian artillery fire on Friday. One enemy motor pool was also set ablaze, said a military communique here Saturday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,628 said that Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected four cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that there was no Iraq-bound war-related cargo aboard them.

Iraqi warplanes violating the airspace of the central and western cities of Arak, Bakhtaran, Hamadan, Eslamabad-Gharb and Bandar-e Emam were forced to flee by Iranian surface-to-air fire on Friday, the communique said.

The communique furthermore said that reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked in the operational theaters of Jofeyr, Eyn-Khosh, Kushk, and Majnun Island on Friday.

In the western fronts, the communique said, Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses and parts of enemy positions set afire in artillery duels with Iranian forces.

Iranian Muslim combatants shelled an Iraqi armoured unit in Nahr 'Anbar, southern fronts, Friday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops. A limited Iraqi offensive was also smashed forcing the enemy troops to retreat, the communique said.

According to the communique, Iraqi engineering operations in areas overlooking Khorramshahr and Shalamcheh, southern fronts, as well as movement of enemy vehicle columns in Helaleh, Naft Shahr, western fronts were checked on Friday.

Communique No 2,629

LD191658 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 19 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 19, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran killed or wounded an undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers in northwestern fronts and destroyed some bunkers of the enemy in artillery exchanges, said a military communique released here Sunday.

Communique Number 2,629 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that the Iranian Muslim combatants dispatched patrol groups and established observation posts to keep Iraqi movements in Marivan operational region under surveillance. It added that some Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and several group bunkers and observation posts of the enemy destroyed when the Muslim forces shelled enemy positions in the said region.

In western fronts, the communique said, Iranian shelling killed or wounded a number of Iraqi soldiers and demolished four group bunkers as well as several vehicles of theirs.

The communique said that vehicle movements of the enemy were subjected to the artillery fire of the Muslim forces in Panjwin, Al-Basrah and Salehabad regions as a result of which some, Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded. Some vehicles of the enemy were destroyed in the shelling, it added.

In Mehran front, the Iranian Muslim combatants destroyed five Iraqi vehicles as well as three 155 mm guns along with their crews, said the communique, adding that engineering activities of the enemy to build roads and erect barbed wire were stopped in Panjwin.

The communique said that the Iranian Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi positions and fortifications in the southern fronts killing and wounding a number of enemy forces and destroying some group bunkers of the Ba'thist soldiers. Iranian patrol units were dispatched and observation posts set up in the fronts to check Iraqi movements.

Iraqi tank fire in Nahr 'Anbar, Yabis, and Eyn-Khosh was silenced by Iranian artillery, said the communique.

Gendarmerie forces of the Islamic Republic heavily shelled Iraqi positions and fortifications in Bayat, Zobeydah, and Khorramshahr killing and wounding an undetermined number of enemy troops, said the communique. Some group bunkers of the enemy were destroyed in the shelling, it added.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 OCTOBER 1986

Israel

Shamir Government — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's government was sworn in at the Knesset after being approved by a majority of 82 to 17, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that 3 coalition MK's abstained in the vote. Shamir had presented the new cabinet to the Knesset in a speech broadcast by the radio, stressing that his administration will champion the "supreme value of settlement in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el" and "will not discriminate between one part of the country and another." He asserted that economic growth must be resumed as it will help Israel promote its Zionist objectives, particularly immigration. On the peace process, Shamir promised that his government will "continue to initiate and seek roads for peace." Disputes among Israelis about ways and means to promote peace are tactical rather than substantive, he said, and it is "pointless and useless to feed the differences among us as long as the Arab side has not come up with a proposal which will be acceptable even to a part of the government." He reaffirmed Israel's desire for direct negotiations with Jordan, noting that Israel is "following with interest" Jordan's inclination to break its links with the PLO. Israel wants the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to "run their own lives," Shamir maintained, but this is conditional on their complete dissociation from the PLO. The new prime minister also said his government will give "high priority" to developing Israel's special relations with the United States, stating that the two countries are allies in many spheres and this relationship should be given "formal expression."

The government presented by Shamir contains three ministers who were not members of Shim'on Peres' outgoing cabinet: Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino is the new health minister, Zvulun Hammer is minister of religious affairs, and Yitzhaq Moda'i is reinstated into the cabinet as one of the ministers without portfolio.

Airman in Lebanon — An Amal Movement official cited by Jerusalem television stated that the captured Israeli airman has been moved to Beirut, adding that Amal wants to exchange the Israeli for Amal members being held in Israeli jails. On the other hand, the Lebanese paper *Al-Anwar* said the Israeli is receiving medical treatment in a hospital in the Al-Biqa' Valley, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi Statement — Following Crown Prince 'Abdallah's talks in Damascus and Baghdad, the Council of Ministers reaffirmed its desire that the crown prince continue his efforts "to bring the brothers closer" and expressed "permanent optimism" that Arab unity will be achieved, SPA reported. The council also stressed the Saudi commitment to the success of an Arab summit, adding that the Kingdom is ready to attend an emergency summit if conditions are unsuitable for a regular session.

Jordanian-Kuwaiti Relations — A joint press statement broadcast by Amman and Kuwait radios noted that Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i's "fruitful" visit to Kuwait contributed to strengthening bilateral cooperation. Reviewing issues of common concern, the two sides confirmed their support for "everything strengthening the steadfastness" of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation and stressed the need for efforts to guarantee the "minimum level of Arab solidarity" in preparation for an Arab summit, the statement added.

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Soviet Troops Leave Konduz 17 Oct; Najibullah Speaks

LD180820 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 17 Oct 86

[Excerpts] The second returning unit of the Soviet limited military contingents in the DRA left today for its peace-loving country after carrying out internationalist duties in the defense of our country's independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty.

Comrade Najibullah, PDPA Central Committee general secretary; a number of the members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee; a number of the members of the Council of Ministers; a number of party and state cadres; officers and soldiers of armed forces; the representatives of the social organizations and a large number of the peasants, workers, theologians, and intellectuals of Konduz Province participated in the ceremony held on the occasion of the second returning unit of the Soviet limited military contingents at the headquarters of the Soviet limited military contingents in that province.

A BIA correspondent reports that at the beginning of the ceremony, after the DRA and USSR national anthems were played, an officer and a soldier from the motorized regiment of the Soviet limited military contingents who were returning to their country, spoke, emphasizing once more that the Soviet people are the real friends of the Afghan people, and that they will not leave their Afghan brothers alone in moments of sorrow, and will stand alongside them until the aggression of world imperialism against the revolution and people of Afghanistan is stopped. [passage omitted]

The BIA correspondent added that Comrade Najibullah delivered a speech addressed to officers, soldiers, and NCO's of the motorized regiment of the Soviet limited military contingents who ended their noble and internationalist duties in the DRA successfully and said:

[Begin recording] Comrades and dear friends, cofighter brothers, dear compatriots: Today, another unit of the internationalist soldiers is returning to its homeland, in the place of [word indistinct] permanent in the Soviet Union. We, together with the noble residents of Konduz, are seeing off our honest friends and comrades, our real brothers in the struggle for the glorious revolutionary gains. Friends can be tested in bad times. This truth is the same in all languages. This saying is simple and understandable in all our country's languages, in Pashto, in Dari, Uzbek, and Turkmen. The Soviet friends have saved our revolution in dark days. The Soviet friends have helped us to be able to foil the aggression of the forces of [passage indistinct]. Thanks for heroism and bravery, for the kindness, and for all those things that you have carried out for our people. Your internationalist epic is eternal. The world has never before seen such assistance or such friendship as that we have received from Lenin's country. The Soviet people are internationalist people. You are a part of your heroic people. Once again our thanks to you.

Today all the people of Afghanistan are seeing you off. From the little children to esteemed elders, we are saying thank you; thank you brothers. The people of Konduz Province are seeing their friends off with heartfelt enthusiasm. The conversations are continuing on Afghan-Soviet friendship in all the establishments and 8,000 people of Konduz Province have visited the friendship room. More than 5,000 thank you letters have arrived addressed to the party provincial committee; we could call these letters, letters of friendship. We are fully confident that the people will warmly see off their friends. Similarly, everybody expresses thanks, while being upset at being separated from their friends.

Good luck to you and have a safe trip home. Let, your mothers' hearts become tranquil and let the heart of your lovable young ladies beat faster in expectation of your return. We will never forget you. The people will never forget the names of your friends who sacrificed their lives for our revolution and for our people's prosperity. Their names are familiar and their epics are eternal. The best memorial for them is the memory of the grateful people of Afghanistan. No one and nothing will be forgotten.

You Soviet soldiers not only became an example of heroism in the struggle, but in fact you became the teachers of our officers and soldiers. We have not only learned the technique of combat from you, but we have learned how to remove difficulties and how to be patient and cool in the most hard and difficult moments. We are closer than ever to the final victory.

Afghan soldiers are carrying out independent operations. They are crushing the rebel bands and are achieving (?noticeable) victories. All the world sees that the conspiracies of imperialism, regional reaction, and rebels are futile and useless.

The popular army, strong and with the readiness and combat capability of Afghanistan, is at the disposal of the defense of the April gains. The strength of this army is embodied in the active support of people, in the patriotism, and [word indistinct] understanding of our youths from their revolutionary duty. Peace, the long-felt desire of our people, will rule in our country. Peace, construction, and our country's prosperity — these are our aims. We will seek these aims with all our heart and soul. You all know that we will achieve them. You all know that we are ready to go forward with national reconciliation, and are ready for logical compromise.

Everybody knows that the return of the Soviet limited military contingents is a good step and will and must be considered as a new move toward ending the undeclared war against our revolution and ending the aggression supported from abroad. We are expecting our compatriots who have been deceived by hostile propaganda to lay down their arms and not to sell the homeland of their fathers for U.S., Iranian, and Pakistani money.

The brothers of the homeland are waiting for you. The broad arms of the homeland are open to those of you who are ready to participate in the joint cause of the modernization of our lovable country. Our words make sense. Afghanistan is our common home. In this home there is much space. Let our home be the home of peace and prosperity for all.

The Soviet brothers, whom we are seeing off today, have carried out their heroic internationalist duty in the hope of peace, for peace, for urgent peace, and in desire for peace in our (?offended) country.

We are seeing them off with words of peace. It is a pleasure to us, that Comrade (Sychev Bitov), a representative at the 27th CPSU Congress, has served in your unit.

Dear friends: Our friendship is eternal, like the world in which we live. This friendship is vital, like the roaring waves of rivers. This friendship is endless like the wisdom of our forefathers who signed the everlasting protocol of mutual assistance and cooperation. Years and decades will pass, and our children and grandchildren will raise higher and advance the sacred banner of Afghan-Soviet friendship. We will always have in mind our internationalist duty and will respond to favours in like manner. We send our endless thanks to the great Lenin whose genius set the foundation of our friendship 60 years ago.

We send our endless thanks to the Soviet leadership and to Comrade Gorbachev, who are wisely developing the tradition of friendship. We send our thanks to the people of the Soviet Union, the workers, peasants, and intellectuals for the comprehensive assistance, for the understanding of our problems, and for the friendly and fraternal care of our young revolution. We express our thanks to the heroic Armed Forces of the Soviet Union.

On behalf of our party and all the people of Afghanistan, I want to present to the personnel of your regiment the memorial banner of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers, and the sculpture of combat-brothers.

Long live the eternal friendship and fraternity of our people. Long live internationalist solidarity. Long live peace, this long-felt desire in our country, in all the region. Peace in all the world. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Nur Ahmad Nur Sees Off Soviet Unit From Herat 17 Oct

LD181535 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1600 GMT 17 Oct 86

[Excerpts] An infantry motorized regiment of the Soviet Union's limited units, in the course of a special ceremony today, left for its peaceful country from Shindand District of Herat Province.

The ceremony held on the occasion of the return of the second regiment of the Soviet limited units was attended by Comrade Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; a number of generals and officers of the Ministry of Defense; party and government cadres of Herat Province; representatives of Herat social organisations; workers, peasants and toilers. [passage omitted]

In his speech Comrade Nur Ahmad Nur expressed thanks to the courageous and brave officers of the Soviet limited units for the defense of Afghanistan's independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty; he then presented the glorious banner of the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council and the DRA Council of Ministers, enclosed with a commendation certificate, to the commander of the motorized regiment. Comrade Nur also gave a statue, representing combat fraternity between the Afghan and Soviet officers and men, which was prepared by the Ministry of the Defense, to the personnel of the regiment.

The BIA correspondent adds that badges and medals of the DRA were then presented to a number of outstanding officers and men of the motorized regiment. After thanks were expressed by the participants in the meeting, the motorized regiment of the Soviet limited military units left Shindand District for their homeland. [passage omitted]

Najibullah, Keshtmand Honor Soviet Soldiers 19 Oct

LD191926 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 19 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Thousands of toilers in Kabul, the capital of our revolutionary country, the DRA, bid farewell today to the heroic soldiers and officers of one of the regiments of the limited Soviet contingents which is returning home after carrying out its internationalist duties, duties of helping our people defend their independence and freedom as well as the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the DRA. The Kabul toilers bid farewell to the Soviet regiment and expressed fraternal thanks by offering flowers and shouting slogans of friendship and solidarity.

A BIA correspondents reports that the glorious meeting held in Balut Hesar to mark the departure of the Soviet regiment was attended by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee; members of the Central Committee; members of the Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers of the DRA; high-ranking state and party officials; officials of social organizations; generals and high-ranking officers of the DRA Armed Forces; Comrade Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union in the DRA; officers of the limited Soviet contingent in the DRA; representatives of Kabul and toilers of the provinces; as well as a number of tribal elders and leaders. In addition, a large group of foreign journalists and reporters, as well as representatives of our country's mass media, were present at this ceremony. [passage omitted]

A BIA correspondent notes that Soviet state medals and decorations were awarded to a number of men of this regiment for the successful completion of their duties in the DRA. These medals were awarded by Comrade Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev. Similarly, DRA medals and decorations approved by the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council in appreciation of the bravery and heroism of the soldiers and officers of the regiment were awarded to a number of men by Comrade Najibullah and Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand. [passage omitted]

Najibullah's 19 Oct Address

LD200352 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 19 Oct 86

[Excerpts] One-hundred thousand Kabul workers today bid farewell to soldiers and officers of a regiment of the limited Soviet contingent who are returning to their peace-loving country after accomplishing their internationalist duties in helping our people and country in the defense of our country's independence, freedom, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty. They saw them off by expressing fraternal thanks, offering them flowers, and proclaiming slogans of friendship and solidarity. In this glorious meeting, Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, delivered a speech:

[Begin Najibullah recording] Dear brothers and co-fighters, noble compatriots of Kabul, and esteemed foreign visitors: Today we are bidding farewell to another regiment of the Soviet internationalist soldiers. This regiment is returning to its peace-loving country. In recent days we have seen very excited moments of love and respect for our Soviet friends. We have seen beautiful flowers on tanks; covered with flowers, these tanks were moving from Shindand to the Soviet Union. The tanks were going neither to nor from the battlefield. This peaceful attack of tanks was against all the old-fashioned climate of mistrust, suspicion, doubts, and enmity which had accumulated during the Cold War years. [passage omitted]

I want to ask myself and my compatriots, where would we have been today without Soviet fraternity? Under the heel of English imperialism? No. The friendship protocol of 1921 saved us from this disaster. In backwardness from decades of poverty? No. Selfless Soviet social and economic assistance saved us. In the captivity of world imperialism, regional reaction, and rebels? No. The Soviet internationalist soldiers defended us against this disaster after the victory of the April Revolution. They saved us in the most difficult moment in our history, in the critical moment when the enemies were confident that the Afghans would no longer have a future. The Soviet people shared their bread and salt with us, and gave us all needed assistance. When the deadly danger occured, the Soviet people gave us their most sacred forces, their children. [passage omitted]

Today, I want to ask, how long will the imposed undeclared war continue? How long will dollars, marks, pounds, rupees, and rials be paid to these bloody accounts? How long will the peace-loving people of Afghanistan be the victims of imperialism and reaction? Imperialism has made Afghanistan the bleeding wound of our planet. We see much cruelty and suffering. When the Soviet Union wants to help us treat this wound, imperialism sprinkles salt on it and pours acid. Foreign journalists in the recent press conference showed interest in the figures of inflicted damages during the war years. [passage omitted]

We have hope that world opinion will finally force imperialism and regional reaction to leave the suffering people of Afghanistan alone, and give them an opportunity to achieve national reconciliation themselves. But history has unfortunately proved another subject too: That is, to sit with hands tied and wait for reaction to give up its interests is dangerous. [passage omitted]

Today, our state is continuing the difficult war. Let everyone know that we took arms for defending peace, freedom, honor, and national dignity, the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of our country. The Soviet internationalist soldiers have taught us their combat experiences and have helped in the creation of the modern Army of Afghanistan. The return of six Soviet regiments to their homeland is a strong sign of our growing strength and our ability to crush independently the hated rebels. This is a symbol of the victory of the revolution and faith in our future successes. [passage omitted]

Another regiment will leave from Shindand and Konduz, following their friends. Kabul, the heart of revolutionary Afghanistan, is bidding farewell to its loyal combatant friends. [passage omitted]

On behalf of party and people I want to express thanks for each Soviet soldier and kiss you according to our tradition, and for all those things that you have done in honor of internationalist fraternity. I, on behalf of the party and all our people, award the personnel of your regiment the commemorative banner of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Council of Ministers. Let this banner be the security of our loyalty to these oaths.

Long live eternal Afghan-Soviet friendship. Long live internationalist solidarity. Honor to the Soviet internationalist soldier. [applause] [end recording]

Ceremony Held for Soviet Troops Leaving Balkh 20 Oct

LD201927 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Excerpts] In the course of the return of the limited Soviet military contingents to their peace-loving country, a unit of the limited Soviet contingents left Balkh Province for their country after accomplishing their internationalist duties in the defense of the national independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of our country.

A ceremony was held where the Mazar-e Sharif and Heratan Roads cross. The ceremony was attended by party and state officials of Balkh Province; state and party cadres and activists; officers and soldiers of the Armed Forces; heads and representatives of social organizations; and a large number of workers, peasants, theologians, ulema, and intellectuals of Balkh Province. [passage omitted]

Rebels 'Crushed'; Weapons Seized in Kabul Province

LD201738 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] BAKHTAR reports that as a result of a successful attack by the country's alert security forces on the devilish nests of the criminal group of Dr Khan Aga belonging to the notorious band of Jamiat in the village of (Aga Ali Shikh), Shakar Darreh District, Kabul Province, a number of these criminals who had been disturbing the peaceful life of our compatriots by resorting to destructive deeds and intimidation were crushed. The security forces seized eight surface-to-surface rockets with their warheads, two Chinese rocket launchers, an antitank mine, three Chinese Kalashnikovs, and a large number of ZK-1 shells.

Gandhi Returns 20 Oct From Recent 8-Day Tour

Bangkok News Conference Cited

BK200920 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] The prime minister is back home at the end of his 8-day tour of Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, and Thailand. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was received at the airport by his Cabinet colleagues, Congress-I party functionaries, senior officials, and others.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, Mr Gandhi described his visit as very successful. It has helped in improving relations with these countries in strengthening the existing economic ties.

Answering a question on the recent Reagan-Gorbachev summit, the prime minister said he would like to congratulate both of them on initiating the proposal. The positive side of the summit is that there is a very great degree of agreement for arms reductions.

Addressing a news conference before leaving the Thai capital, Bangkok, Mr Gandhi expressed concern over the increased American military aid to Pakistan and said it will lead to escalation of arms race in the subcontinent. The U.S. military aid forces India to divert its resources for spending on weapons which would otherwise be used for development. Answering a wide range of questions, Mr Gandhi said he saw some positive elements in the Sri Lankan Government's new initiative to resolve the ethnic issue there. These could be workable starting points for negotiations. He hopes to discuss the issue with President Jayewardene when he visits India next month.

On Afghanistan and Kampuchea, Mr Gandhi said India stands for total withdrawal of all foreign troops from the two countries. About India's relations with super powers, Mr Gandhi said while the 30-year old ties with Moscow are improving and deepening, the relations with Washington have been swinging between warm and friendly to distant and cool. On GATT and more rounds of global trade talks the prime minister emphasized the need for closer consultations among the developing nations. India and Thailand have identified a number of areas for cooperation including fisheries, joint ventures, and several other areas. Before leaving Bangkok the prime minister was given a warm send off at Don Muang Airport.

Tour's Aim 'To Improve' Relations

BK201652 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] The prime minister today categorically ruled out any cut in the plan size or slowing down the development process. Answering a question on his return to New Delhi today after his tour of Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, and Thailand, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said there cannot be any compromise on this. The country will make whatever efforts may be necessary to face the situation. The question related to the finance minister's reported observation about the need to curtail government expenditure. About his visit the prime minister said it was meant to improve political and economic relations with these countries. In both these areas we have done very well, he said.

Replying to another question, Mr Gandhi expressed disappointment at the outcome of the Reykjavik talk. He said the outcome was not what it could have been. It was for the first time in many decades that the world had reached a point when substantial progress to ensure peace could have been made. He said unfortunately the issue of "star wars" got in the way. He recalled that India along with five other nations who took the disarmament initiative had been advocating that this matter would create tremendous difficulties in coming to a settlement on disarmament.

Earlier, talking to newsmen on board the aircraft, the prime minister said that only a few years back terms like nonalignment or disarmament were not acceptable. But today people have started realizing that we talk sense and this has given credibility to the Nonaligned Movement, he said.

Gandhi Message Expresses 'Grief' Over Machel's Death

BK201629 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] The prime minister has expressed his deep grief over the tragic death of President Samora Machel and has offered profound sympathy to the people of Mozambique on his own behalf and on behalf of the Government and people of India. In a message, Mr Gandhi said that he has lost a good friend and Africa and the nonaligned world a dynamic leader. Paying tribute to President Samora Machel, the prime minister said through his courage and outstanding organizational ability he led Mozambique to freedom and guided its march to the modern age.

All of us who had recently seen this indefatigable fighter in Harare at the nonaligned summit find it hard to believe that he is no more. Samora Machel's example will inspire us all in our fight for equality and justice.

USSR's Katushev Arrives for Visit; Meets Arun Singh

BK201610 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] The chairman of the Soviet Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, Mr K.F. Katushev, had a meeting with the minister of state for defense, Mr Arun Singh, in New Delhi today. They discussed matters of mutual interest. The minister of state for defense production, Mr Sukh Ram; and the chief of the naval staff, Admiral Tahiliani were present.

Mr Katushev arrived in New Delhi this morning on a 6-day visit to the country. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr K.R. Narayanan, received him at the airport. The visit is in preparation for the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev's visit to New Delhi next month.

Iraqi Delegation Arrives for Cooperation Talks

JN201544 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] New Delhi, 20 Oct (INA) — Dr Ghassan 'Abdallah Radwan, under secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, arrived here today heading an Iraqi delegation on a 3-day visit to India. In a statement upon arrival at New Delhi airport today, Dr Radwan said that he will hold talks with Indian officials on promoting cooperation in economic and trade spheres. He called on Indian firms to participate in several Iraqi projects, stressing Iraq's desire to benefit from Indian expertise.

'Suspected Terrorists' Kill 3; Malout Town 'Normal'

BK190908 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 19 Oct 86

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were shot dead by suspected terrorists yesterday in two different incidents. In Bagapurana in Faridkot, three suspected terrorists shot dead a spare-parts dealer. The assailants, who came on foot, managed to escape under the cover of darkness. In another incident, some unidentified persons shot dead a teacher on a canal bridge in village Jaura in Amritsar District. The situation is completely normal in Malout town of Faridkot District. An 8-hour relaxation in curfew has been announced from 0900 to 1700 today.

Curfew Reimposed in Malout

BK210313 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 21 Oct 86

[Text] In Punjab, indefinite curfew was reimposed in Malout town of Farikot District following killing of a person by suspected terrorists last night. A police spokesman said in Chandigarh, that two assailants knocked at the door of a private [medical] practitioner and when he opened the door, he was shot at and seriously injured. The assailants, who were in police uniforms, managed to escape. The doctor died on his way to the hospital.

Security 'Stepped Up' in 'Renewed' Darjeeling Clashes

BK190851 Hong Kong AFP in English 0711 GMT 19 Oct 86

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 19 (AFP) — Security Forces in Darjeeling have been ordered to shoot rioters on sight following renewed clashes between Gurkha separatists and Communists in the northeastern Indian hill district, reports here said Sunday. Paramilitary troop reinforcements were also drafted in and police patrols stepped up Saturday as violence flared in at least three towns in the sensitive tea garden district, the *United News of India* (UNI) said. Security Forces were armed with orders to shoot rioters on sight and police patrols stepped up Saturday as violence flared in at least three towns in the sensitive tea garden district, the *United News of India* (UNI) said. [as received] There were no reports of casualties.

The clashes erupted after activists of the Gurkha National Liberation Front (GNLF), which is spearheading the Gurkha separatist campaign in Darjeeling, went on a wave of arson Friday, torching more than a dozen houses and a government-run school, UNI said. The houses belonged to workers of the Communist Party of India- Marxist (CPI-M), a member of the left front alliance that governs Darjeeling, the news agency said. Fifteen CPI-M activists have been killed and some 180 communist- owned houses burnt since the GNLF launched its campaign for a Gurkha homeland in May.

Meanwhile, the leftwing called for nationwide protests in November in the first of several steps to "politically counter" the Gurkha campaign, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) said. The protests between November 10 and 12 would include demonstrations against the GNLF and all-party meetings to map out a joint political strategy to counter the Gurkha struggle, it said.

The GNLF's campaign for a "Gurkhaland" first hit the headlines in May when it fired its first salvo by calling a three-day closedown in Darjeeling that was eminently successful. More than 20 Gurkhas have died in police firing and clashes with Communists since then.

The GNLF says hill-dwelling Gurkhas, who are of Nepalese stock, are discriminated against in India, with Indians from the plains getting preference in government jobs and business. The Indian Government denies the allegation.

Reportage on Gandhi's 3-Day Visit to New Zealand

For reportage on Prime Minister Rajiv Gahdhi's visit to New Zealand from 16-18 October see the 21 Australasia section of the 21 October Asia & Pacific *Daily Report*.

Ziaul Haq Urges Muslim 'Unity' in Science, Technology

BK200152 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 19 Oct 86

[Text] The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held in Islamabad today. Inaugurating it, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq called for concerted efforts by the Islamic ummah [community] in the field of science and technology to face contemporary challenges of banishing poverty and backwardness. He described the Executive Committee meeting as a landmark in the progress and development of science and technology in the Islamic world and in achieving the objective set forth by the last OIC summit in Morocco.

The president underscored the need for unity in the Muslim ummah and larger efforts to catch up with the advanced world of science and technology. Explaining the objectives of the Standing Committee on Science and Technological Cooperation, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Islamic countries must implement the programs in this field already approved by the summit under the plan of action. He said only the initiation of programs is not sufficient; the important thing is the managing and monitoring of these programs until their complete implementation.

The Standing Committee Executive approved a wide-ranging agenda for the Standing Committee meeting to be held in Islamabad on the 19th of next month. It included the submission of reports of various committees of the OIC dealing with science and technology and reviewing of various plans including those of science and technology. It included the Turkish project, that is the Islamic countries' research activation agency and the provision of infrastructure to less developed African countries. The meeting expressed full satisfaction over the progress made by the Standing Committee since 1984.

Earlier, the prime minister's adviser on science and technology, Dr M.A. Qazi, welcoming the delegates, outlined the objectives of the meeting. Besides Pakistan, the meeting was attended by representatives from Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and the Islamic fund for science and technology development.

MRD To Continue Public Meetings for Early Elections

BK181108 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
12 Oct 86 p 1,8

[By Tariq Butt]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 11 — The Central Action Committee [CAC] of the MRD in its daylong deliberations here on Saturday decided to continue to hold public meetings throughout the country to be addressed by the heads of its components as part of its drive to mobilise public opinion for early party-based elections under an interim government. First public meeting will be held in Lahore on Nov 6.

The MRD Convener Maulana Fazlur Rahman conceded that this struggle had been adopted after the August 14 agitation imposed by the government had exposed certain organisational weaknesses in the Alliance.

Maulana Rahman who was briefing newsmen after the MRD committee ended its day long deliberations, said that it had exhaustively reviewed the political situation as well as its organisation affairs. The meeting condemned what he called military operations in some parts of Sind and harassment of political opponents in the guise of action against the dacoits.

He said the village of Faqir Hisbani, a PSF [Pakistan Solidarity Front] activist, who was allegedly killed by police, was subjected to army operation. He said the fact that the Sind government had paid millions of rupees to the dacoits as ransom to secure the release of its functionaries, spoke of its helplessness and the deteriorating law and order situation in the province.

Answering a question, the Convenor said that MRD had received no formal offer of dialogue from Prime Minister Junejo. "We have only read in the papers that he was ready for negotiations with the Opposition alliance."

He told another correspondent that today's meeting did not take into consideration the statement of Gen. Zia that the next local bodies' polls will be held on non-party basis.

The Convenor said the heads of the component parties of the Alliance met for five hours and described the Abbottabad public meeting on Friday as a success. He said the CAC decided that a team of volunteers should be prepared to curb unruliness in the MRD public rallies.

Saturday's meeting was not attended by Ms Benazir Bhutto due to her preoccupations. However, she was present in the important parleys late last night.

Maulana Fazalur Rahman denied that the People's Party had warned against the induction of the newly-formed jatoi's NPP [National Peoples Party] in the MRD fold. He said unless any new party applied for membership, the matter is not discussed in the CAC.

He clarified that none of the MRD resolutions had talked about the formation of a national government to supervise elections. "What the Alliance has proposed is that an interim government should be formed to hold polls."

The Convenor replied in the affirmative that the CAC took into consideration the letter written by the Tehrik [Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Party] Chief Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan to the MRD, mentioning his party's complaints against the People's Party and the former NDP [National Democratic Party]. He said replies to the letter would be received from the two parties before the next CAC meeting was held and it would be considered then. However, he said Wali Khan after the formation of the Awami National Party had fully accepted the 4-point programme of the Alliance.

He demanded the withdrawal of the recently introduced Excise Rules and increase in the water charges for the agricultural land.

He pointed out that the government had enhanced the water levy four times since 1970 at the behest of the World Bank.

Maulana Fazalur Rahman blamed the government for the recent Shia- Sunni riots and said the police resorted to violence without any cause or provocation. He said an MRD committee formed to probe into the sectarian trouble, had indicated that the administrative action was totally unnecessary and unfair.

He said corruption had increased manifold during the present regime. Loans of millions of rupees were written off and the government refused to divulge the names of the loanees in its fake 'Assembly', he added.

The Convenor said big allocations to MNA's [members of National Assembly] and MPA's [members of provincial assemblies] had been made by the government to stabilise their hold on power. He said there had been bunglings in the execution of development projects.

He said the law and order situation had gone out of control of the government. The robbers, looters, and smugglers had a free hand.

He said the CAC meeting reiterated its fundamental demands for fresh polls under the unamended 1973 Constitution without further delay. He concluded that a representative government was a must to solve the problems of the masses.

The CAC meeting was attended by the nominees of all the components of the Alliance except Tehrik-i-Istiqlal. PPP [Pakistan People's Party] was represented by Rao Rashid and Pyar Ali Allana, while most of the parties were represented by their top leaders including Khan Abdul Wali Khan, Mehraj Mohammad Khan, Malik Qasim, and others.

Spokesman on DRA Talks Offer, Resettlement, Policy

BK210756 Rawalpindi THE MUSLIM in English
14 Oct 86 pp 1,8

[From Rahimullah Yousufzai — spelling of all names as published]

[Text] Peshawar, Oct 13 — The Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahideen has rejected Kabul's latest offer of a dialogue to resolve the Afghanistan problem and has declared its unwillingness to form a national government in partnership with the DRA rulers.

Prof Sibghatullah Mojaddadi, current spokesman of the seven party alliance, told a news conference in Peshawar on Monday that Islam and atheism would make strange bed fellows and free people would think twice before shaking hands stained with the blood of freedom fighters.

He reminded President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev that any negotiations on Afghanistan during their summit in Iceland would remain unproductive unless they took into consideration the four principles enunciated by the Organization of Islamic Conference and reiteration of the call by an overwhelming majority at the United Nations for a political settlement of the Afghan dispute. These included the unconditional and complete withdrawal of foreign troops, recognition of the legitimate right of Afghans of self-determination, and a return of all refugees with honour and dignity.

Two top leaders of the coalition, Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani and Pir Syed Ahmad Gailani, were present at the press conference but Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, now touring Turkey; Prof Abdur Rasul Sayyaf, reportedly visiting Jaji Maidan in Paktia Province; Maulvi Yunis Khalis who has gone to Quetta; and Maulvi Nabi Mohammadi were not there. Second rank resistance leaders and gun-toting Afghans were, however, present in strength.

Pir Mojaddadi also announced the alliance's strong opposition to the reported dislocation of Afghan population from the areas bordering Pakistan to the west of the country with a view to containing the resistance. He termed it as unpractical and barbaric as such resettlement would lead to more bloodshed amd further sufferings for the Afghans along with increased exodus of refugees to neighboring countries, especially Pakistan. He argued that the unpopular Soviet and DRA rulers would fail to force the Afghans to resettle in western Afghanistan unlike Amir Abdur Rahman in the past as almost the entire population was now up in arms against their rule.

The alliance spokesman maintained that the tactical withdrawal of a few thousand Soviet troops, who formed only about 4 per cent of the 150,000 Red Army contingent in Afghanistan and comprised redundant air defense units, was a propagandist move and a ploy aimed at diverting world attention from their brutalities and their failures on the battlefield. He declared that the Mujahideen would intensify their jehad [struggle] to force the invaders out of Afghanistan not duped by propaganda [sentence as published].

Prof Mojaddedi termed the elections being conducted by the DRA, regime in Afghanistan as farce and claimed that the seven party coalition would finalise a draft within the next few days to hold its own polls in the liberated areas, and amongst the refugees form an elected council (Shoora). He said that the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahideen will soon decide to send its delegation to the United Nations to enlist support for their cause. He added that the alliance leaders would also deliberate moves to strengthen their unity and to resolve the differences which cropped up after the visit to the United States by four heads of the component parties.

The alliance spokesman conceded that the Hezb-e-Eslami chief Gulbaddin Hekmatyar has been boycotting meetings of the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujhideen after the American visit. He, however, contended that Prof Sayyaf had been sending his nominees to alliance meets and Maulvi Yunis Khalis has not boycotted any meeting. He added that the seven groups have been carrying out joint military operations.

Pir Mojaddadi denied that the Mujahideen had received stringer [as published] missiles from the United States. He claimed that the Mujahideen had recently downed helicopters in Jalalabad, said Karam, and Kunar by using conventional weapons.

He told a questioner that only the Afghans could decide whether the former King Zahir Shah was acceptable to them as a compromise candidate in case the Afghan issue was resolved. Replying to a question, he felt the killings of Afghan commanders in Pakistan were not due to infignting between different resistance groups but was the work of KHAD agents. Pir Mojaddadi said in reply to yet another question that he did not foresee a change in Islamabad's Afghan policy.

SRI LANKA

2-Week Deadline Issued to 'Terrorists' on Negotiations

BK171522 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1500 GMT 17 Oct 86

[Text] Colombo, Oct 17 (LANKA PUWATH) — Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali has said that the terrorists will have to decide within the next fortnight whether they will participate or not in the discussions to find a solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation announced in its evening news bulletin today. He was speaking at a seminar at Diyatalawa, in Sri Lanka's hill country, this morning. He said that India was now making every effort to bring the terrorists to the negotiating table.

The minister pointed out that if the terrorists reject the talks, the government will fight them with world public opinion and the Tamils on its side. The minister appealed to the terrorists to come forward to find a solution to the problem without destroying innocent lives.

Mr Athulathmudali also called on political parties to participate in the discussion and stressed that the government will not hesitate to take necessary action if peaceful efforts to solve the ethnic problem fails. He said that the United States has decided to help Sri Lanka against terrorism having taken into consideration the government's proposal to solve the ethnic problem.

'Terrorists' Continue 'Wave of Violence'

BK180457 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0423 GMT 18 Oct 86

[Text] Colombo, Oct 17 (LANKA PUWATH) — Separatist terrorists operating in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces continued their wave of violence against government troops during the past two days.

The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that terrorists exploded a landmine near the old police station, Valachchenai, Batticaloa, eastern Sri Lanka yesterday where a police patrol was returning from the railway station. One policeman was killed while six other policemen were wounded. The dead was identified as Nimal Chandratilleke.

In Mankulam town, Mutur, yesterday government troops captured suspects. 12 were released and seven were detained for further questioning.

Last Wednesday (October 15) night, at Kattaparichchan, Trincomalee District, government troops recovered a landmine weighing approximately 20 kilograms buried near the 64th mile post along the Mutur-Palatoppu road.

On the same day 20 miles east of Chundikkulam, a naval patrol craft opened fire at a terrorist boat which was within the prohibited zone. Six terrorists were killed and one terrorist was captured. The captured terrorist identified himself as Navarajah from Sampaltivu. He is being questioned.

Navy recovered the following items, 3x55 horse power out board motors, 1x40 horse power out board motor, 6x20 gallon patrol cans, four hand grenades, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) literature, and 24 apples.

In northern Sri Lanka, last Wednesday, six miles north of Kakaitivu, a naval patrol craft fired at a terrorist boat and killed 15 terrorists. Navy also captured one terrorist and handed him over to the security forces for questioning.

Navy recovered 24 different varieties of ammunition rounds, seven grenades, two film rolls, six gunny bags with empty arrack bottles, four gunny bags of rice, two national identity cards of Jesudasan Anton Udayakumar Velupillai Rajasingham and Kumaraswamy Balasunderam Kumaran, and two passports belonging to Ambalavanar Vinayagar and Krishanagopal Subramaniam.

Separatists Destroy Government Buildings

BK181409 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0923 GMT 18 Oct 86

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 18 (LANKA PUWATH) — The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that armed separatist terrorists destroyed the Irrigation Department buildings and rice stores of the Paddy Marketing Board at Sagamam, Batticaloa District, in Eastern Sri Lanka last Thursday (October 16th).

On the same day in a fire fight between terrorists and Sri Lankan Government troops which followed an explosion of a claymore mine at Valachchenai a civilian named Kanagaratnam Malarasa was injured. Troops rushed him to the Batticaloa hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Government Forces Capture 23 Separatists

BK181405 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0920 GMT 18 Oct 86

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 18 (LANKA PUWATH) — Sri Lankan Government troops captured 23 separatist terrorists in the Batticaloa District, eastern Sri Lanka yesterday, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH today. A Security Force patrol captured 14 terrorist suspects and released 11 after questioning at the Manmunai ferry site. Three were detained since they were identified as People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) supporters.

Six terrorist suspects were captured at Irudayapuram by government troops. Four were released after interrogation. Two were detained as they were PLOTE supporters.

Three terrorist suspects who were captured by the Sri Lanka police at Kalawanchikudy are being interrogated.

Separatists' Morale Said 'Low' After Defeats

BK181359 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0935 GMT 18 Oct 86

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 18 (LANKA PUWATH) — Separatist terrorists morale was reported as low after a series of defeats last week in battles with Sri Lanka's security forces, the major one being at Mannar, north west Sri Lanka, informed sources told LANKA PUWATH.

They said that the terrorist offensive spearheaded by the Velupillai Prabakaran led Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had not only failed, but had also proved that government troops were now superior to the terrorists in combat. Informed sources also pointed out that the terrorists were also up against increasing opposition and action directed against them by the people of northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

During the past two weeks citizens in these areas have successfully staged protest 'hartals' [strikes], meetings and demonstrations against atrocities committed by the terrorists against the law abiding citizens of these areas who now openly call on the terrorists to lay down their arms.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that as many as 110 separatist terrorists were killed in actions against government troops during the past one week. The large majority of these terrorists were members of the LTTE. A further 47 of them were captured while only 15 servicemen were killed in the battles. Four civilians were also reported killed by terrorists.

The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that 17 terrorists had been killed yesterday when security forces counterattacked in Mannar.

Eight terrorists of the LTTE and Eros [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] were killed during a combing out operation at Madhu, Mannar, while 9 terrorists belonging to the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] and LTTE gangs were killed at Pandivirichan in Periyathampanai. Of the total terrorists killed, 65 were gunned down in the operations conducted by troops in Mannar and Vavuniya in Sri Lanka's north western and northern provinces.

Last Thursday 21 terrorists were killed when a naval patrol fired at two boats carrying terrorists, north of Kakaitivu, Jaffna, and Chundikulam in Trincomalee.

Armed Terrorists Attack Kalmunai Police Station

BK201142 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] Armed separatist terrorists have attacked the Kalmunai police station using small arms and rifles. The Media Center in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that the terrorists attacked the police station last Friday [17 October] using a Hindu temple as cover while evening pujas [religious rites] have been conducted. The police refrained from retaliating as there was a large crowd in the temple.

Meanwhile, Security Forces, acting on information received from captured terrorists, took into a custody a woman terrorist, Nadarasa Chandrakumari, known to be the sympathizer of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] at Malwatte in the Amparai District last Wednesday [15 October]. Her husband, Yamayoganandan, had been captured earlier at Kalawanchikudy.

LTTE Reportedly Sounding Out 'Non-Military Wing'

BK210445 Colombo WEEKEND in English 12 Oct 86 p 1

[By Anoma Tillekeratne]

[Text] Attempts by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to gain political influence in the north by bisecting the organisation have been uncovered by the government.

The LTTE, widely considered the most extremist faction of the separatist movement has ordered its cadres to visit every village and sound out the people on its plans to form a non-military wing, radio communications between Jaffna and Tamil Nadu have revealed. The group's Jaffna leader Kittu was heard in conversation with Anton Balasingham, the LTTE's spokesman in Madras when a radio message was intercepted earlier this month. Balasingham's explanation to Kittu on the need for a political wing indicated that the LTTE was using the political guise to solicit support for the struggle for an independent state of Eelam.

Kittu had pointed out that both the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] and the EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] groups had their own people's organisations in the north, to which Balasingham's advice was that they should be recognized in order to preserve unity.

An LTTE member who was involved in the group's political activities has been despatched to Tamil Nadu to brief Balasingham on the political climate in Jaffna, military intelligence has also learnt. Meanwhile, the LTTE's lower ranking cadres were continuing their programmes of extortion, another intercepted message has revealed.

Last Monday, the LTTE summoned officials from the Jaffna Municipal Council and hotel, bakery and meat stall owners to a meeting at the Manohara Theatre. There they told them that all bakeries, hotels, and meat stalls that did not conform to strict hygenic standards would be shut down. The group would also levy a tax of Rs. 30 a month from every hotel and bakery the meeting was told. In addition to these taxes all owners of bicycles would have to obtain a revenue licence from the LTTE, it was announced.

Khamene'i Views Machel Death 'With Suspicion'

LD201916 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 20, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Monday that the Islamic Republic of Iran views with suspicion the Sunday night crash of an airplane carrying Mozambican President Samora Machel.

Speaking to Iranian political representatives to Asia and Oceania the president said that the incident has implications beyond a mere air crash.

Addressing himself to the African Frontline States and anti-apartheid countries President Khamene'i called on them to probe the incident.

Khamene'i said if the mishap should prove to have been an act of terrorism it will then signify "the enmity of the global arrogance with the anti-imperialist countries."

The president also outlined common political and economic interests between Iran and other Asian countries and said that Asia is ideal for implementing an Iranian-proposed "Islamic Common Market", while upholding her current policies in Africa and other parts of the world.

President Khamene'i also said that Iran insists on healthy relations with foreign countries barring those states which are hostile to the Islamic Revolution. Khamene'i described the future of the Islamic Republic as "promising" and expressed confidence that the Iranian people will continue to back the Islamic Revolution notwithstanding hardships.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

NC210756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 21 Oct 86

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry has issued a communique expressing regret at the accident involving the plane on which Mozambican President Samora Machel and other senior officials were traveling. While referring to the Mozambican nation's fight against colonialism and apartheid, the declaration praises Samora Machel's role as a pioneer in his country's struggle, and as head of one of the Frontline States in the campaign against the racist South African regime. The statement from the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry emphasizes that the details of this tragedy must be brought to light. At the same time, it voices hope that the people and officials of Mozambique and the other Frontline States will continue, as never before, the efforts and struggle of the late Mozambican president to strengthen South Africa's anti-colonial and anti-apartheid movement.

Velayati Receives Libyan Envoy, Message

LD181216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 18 Oct 86

[Text] (Abu al-Hid Muhammad Jamaki), head of the Libyan People's Bureau in Tehran, this morning met Foreign Minister Velayati, to whom he handed a message from the secretary of the Foreign Liaison Committee of his country.

During the meeting, the head of the Libyan People's Bureau, congratulating our country on the recent victories scored by Islam's combatants on the battlefronts of good against evil, said: We consider these as victories for all Muslims and we hope to witness the overthrow of the Baghdad dictator as soon as possible.

The head of the Libyan People's Bureau in Tehran, referring to fraternal relations between the two countries, extolled the Islamic Republic of Iran's acts of support for the Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in its confrontation with U.S. imperialism and conveyed to Mr Velayati expressions of thanks and gratitude from the secretary of the Libyan Foreign Liaison Committee for the clear-cut and decisive stances adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran at the UN General Assembly particularly in its total and all-round support for Libya.

During the meeting Mr Velayati said: We are standing alongside our Libyan brothers whom we fully support in their anti-imperialist struggle, and we will proclaim this on every occasion.

Shafe'i Terms Visits to GDR, Hungary 'Fruitful'

LD201718 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 20, IRNA — Minister of Industries Gholam Reza Shafe'i told reporters here Monday that his recent visits to East Germany and Hungary were 'fruitful'.

Speaking in a press conference the minister said that a trade protocol signed between Iran and GDR three months ago, would be reviewed further in view of the current oil prices. He noted, Irano-German trade relations were previously based on exchange of oil for goods, but presently Iran is capable of exporting a wide variety of non-oil goods to East Germany. Shafe'i said it was decided in his recent talks with East German officials to implement the policy of mutual purchase (buy back), as it suits the current situation, he added.

GDR has agreed to cooperate with the Islamic Republic on four industrial projects based on the framework of this new policy, said the minister.

On results of his visit to Hungary, Shafe'i termed them as 'very satisfactory and fruitful.' The minister mentioned that all trade and industrial cooperation between Iran and Hungary will be based on the 'buy-back' method transactions. He added that Hungary will export raw materials and machinery to Iran and the Islamic Republic will in return process them and export same to that country.

Hungary is to cooperate with the Islamic Republic in setting up medical raw material plants through the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Shafe'i said. He added that 13 types of medical raw materials used in the manufacture of drugs will be produced by those plants.

Shafe'i was member of a high-ranking Iranian delegation led by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi to the two East European capitals last week.

Spokesman Responds to Iraqi Threats of Future Attacks

LD201217 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 20, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) stressed here Monday that if Iraqi regime commits new crimes, the Islamic Republic of Iran will give a severer response.

The WIH spokesman's statements were in response to Sunday claims of Iraq's Air Force Commander Hamid Sha'ban that the Baghdad regime in a near future will intensify its attacks on Iranian oil and industrial installations.

The WIH spokesman said, "Islamic combatants will not remain silent against Iraqi savage attacks."

The Iraqi ruler, the spokesman said, should know that sensitive areas in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities were within the range of Iranian missiles.

"Any inhuman act of the enemy will be severely answered," the spokesman said.

Iraqi Claims of Mahabad Governor's Death 'Baseless'

LD181757 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 18 Oct 86

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., Oct 18, IRNA — Mahabad Governor Br. Masoudi [name as received] who was alleged by Baghdad and Zionist radios in Wednesday's broadcasts to have been martyred by anti-revolutionaries, told IRNA Saturday that repeated defeats suffered by the Iraqi regime at the battlefronts have forced them to broadcast baseless news.

The recent victories of the Muslim combatants and Iraqi Kurdish Mojahedin, stated Masoudi have shocked global arrogance and the Ba'thist regime attempting to compensate for its defeats by means of the Zionist mass media. Masoudi said that such news broadcast from radios of the Iraqi regime and the Zionist entity proves the global arrogance's deep anxiety over the imminent fall of Saddam's regime.

It is obvious that such rumours will not at all damage the determination of the Iranian nation, the governor said.

Convoys Continue To Depart for Battlefronts

NC190826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Oct 86

[Excerpts] One battalion of specialized combat forces left for the fronts from Karanj yesterday. [passage omitted]

The Central News Unit reports that cultural and propaganda convoys of the Islamic Propaganda Organizations of Semnan and West Azerbayjan Provinces left for the fronts yesterday from Semnan and Orumiyeh. The members of the convoy, who are Koran experts, will be involved in cultural activities on the fronts of the imposed war.

The Central News Unit reports from Borujerd that a convoy consisting of clergymen and scholars from the Imam Sadeq Holy Seminary of Borujerd Province, named the Fourth Convoy of Borujerd Clergymen, left for the battlefields.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique Details Iraqi Attack on Train

LD201612 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 20, IRNA — Fifteen Iranian civilians were martyred and wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed some cars of a train in Andimeshk, north of Ahvaz in Khuzestan province, at 06:45 hours local time (03:15 hours GMT) Monday, said a military communique here.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,630 said that Iran's Navy released Sunday a cargo ship which it had intercepted and escorted to a southern Iranian port for thorough inspection on October 15.

At least 45 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and some enemy tanks, two vehicles, and several gun emplacements and observation posts destroyed in the southern fronts by Iranian artillery fire on Sunday.

In Nahr 'Anbar and Eyn-Khosh operational theaters, southern fronts, Iranian forces checked movements of Iraqi engineering operations and shelled an enemy armoured unit inflicting considerable losses on it, the communique said.

The communique furthermore said that Iraqi troops sustained heavy casualties and losses in artillery duels in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts which raged more heavily in Qasr-e Shirin on Sunday.

In western fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces shelled Iraqi positions on Sunday killing a number of enemy troops and set afire parts of their fortifications.

Elsewhere, the communique said that Iranian artillery fire on enemy positions in the northwestern fronts on Sunday destroyed several enemy gun emplacements.

A number of Iraqi engineering vehicles were also destroyed in areas overlooking Marivan, northwestern fronts, Sunday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Movement of Iraqi vehicle columns were checked in Mehran and Sumar, western fronts, and in Panjwin, northwestern fronts, on Sunday, according to the communique.

IRNA: 'Cargo' Train 'Not in Operation'

LD201102 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov. Oct 20, IRNA — The train hit by the Iraqi war planes near Andimeshk Monday morning was a cargo train. At time of the explosion the train was not in operation.

Wagons of the train which had no cargo, were on a secondary railroad track.

Basra Warned of Retaliatory 'Raid'

LD201635 Tehran IRNA English 1534 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 20, IRNA — Basra rail station will be shelled by Iranian Muslim combatants for 24 hours as of Tuesday in retaliation for Iraqi air raid on several train cars near Andimeshk Monday.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters called on Basra residents Monday to keep off from the station for their own safety. The spokesman also called on the people of Basra to evacuate the areas near the rail station.

Tehran Reports 'Infiltration Operations'

NC210704 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Oct 86

[Excerpt] In a series of infiltration operations in northern Iraq, the fighters of Islam set fire to and destroyed six fortified positions and a base belonging to one of the aggressor's battalions. A number of Zionist enemy troops, including some officers and sergeants, were killed, while others were wounded.

The fighters of Islam also struck a military base in northern Iraq and a motor pool containing a great many armored vehicles. Both facilities were set ablaze. According to reports, the fires in these installations were seen smoldering long after the attacks by the Islamic forces. [passage omitted]

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 OCTOBER 1986

OPEC Quota Agreement

The OPEC conference adopted Iran's proposal to extend the current "interim and temporary" production quotas during November and December subject to "minor adjustments," OPEC announced in a press release carried by OPECNA at the end of the oil ministers' meeting in Geneva. The new agreement pegs Saudi and UAE quotas at the levels set in August but allows slight increases for other OPEC members. Ecuador and Kuwait receive the largest quota increases, with the latter being permitted to raise its output in December to 999,000 b/pd, the same level as Libya. No quota was set for Iraq, which was not mentioned in the quota list.

The OPEC statement stressed that these interim quota arrangements are not permanent, noting that OPEC has set up a ministerial committee which will seek to draft a "durable and practical formula" for the next OPEC conference on the "parameters" to be taken as a basis for allocating quotas. The conference also agreed with Saudi Arabia's proposal to return to a fixed price structure as soon as possible. Another ministerial committee was established to make recommendations on this subject to the next conference. While welcoming the "general improvement" in prices resulting from the output quotas set in August, the OPEC ministers urged all oil-producing countries to cooperate in defending oil prices by noticeably cutting their production. OPEC appreciates the "positive actions" taken by some non-OPEC oil producers, the statement added, but it can no longer continue to defend market stability "single-handedly."

The Iranian oil minister expressed satisfaction with the agreement in remarks reported by IRNA, though he said a final agreement on quotas must be made at the OPEC meeting in December as the current temporary arrangements are not in OPEC's interest.

Lebanon

Kidnapped American — The "Revolutionary Justice Organization" claimed responsibility for kidnapping Edward Austin Tracy, a U.S. bookseller residing in Lebanon who was reported missing over the weekend. The claim was made in a statement reported by Beirut radio, which noted that the organization accused Tracy of being a Jewish spy.

Captured Israeli — Confirming that the Amal Movement is holding the Israeli F-4 pilot, Amal leader Nabih Birri stated that before Israel demands the release of any prisoner, it must leave Lebanon and free "all" the prisoners held in Israel, according to Beirut radio. In Israel, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated that the Israeli authorities cannot negotiate the pilot's release as long as his whereabouts and the identity of his captors remain unknown, Jerusalem radio noted.

Embassies — The United Kingdom announced its decision to withdraw two British diplomats from Beirut for security reasons and Portugal revealed that it has decided to close down its embassy in the Lebanese capital, according to AFP and Voice of Lebanon radio. Two French soldiers were injured by a mine explosion in the gardens of the French Embassy 21 October, Beirut radio disclosed.

PLO

The PLO accused Israeli intelligence of assassinating Fatah official Mundhir Abu Ghazalah with a car bomb in Athens, WAKH reported.

Algeria

At the end of Italian Premier Bettino Craxi's official visit, the two countries agreed to take steps toward reducing "instability" and the threat of terrorism in the Mediterranean region, Rome radio reported.

France ordered the expulsion of 13 members of the opposition Algerian Democratic Movement as security threats, according to French police sources cited by AFP. In an interview with Paris radio, the movement's leader, former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, had "no comment" on reports that he is an intermediary in negotiations between France and Iran, saying only that he supports calls for the release of French hostages.

Iran-Iraq War

In retaliation for Iraqi action against a cargo train in Khuzestan and air raids on residential areas, Basra railway installations used to transport military material were "heavily shelled" and parts of the Al-Bakr oil platform were ignited by shelling, IRNA reported.

Iran

According to IRNA, Iran announced its willingness to grant political asylum for "humanitarian reasons" to two IRA fugitives whom the Netherlands Supreme Court has ordered extradited to Britain.

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Cabinet Reshuffle Reported; Gandhi Cited

BK221257 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] Seven new ministers have been inducted into the union Council of Ministers today and five are dropped. There has been a major reshuffle of the portfolios. The new ministers are the former chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr J. Vengal Rao; the Congress-I vice president, Mr Arjun Singh; and the former Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, all Cabinet rank. The four ministers of state are Mr Chintamani Panigrahi, Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, Mr M.N. Jacob, and Mr R. Prabhu.

The ministers who have been dropped are Mr Arun Nehru, Mr V.N. Gadgil, Mr Abdul Ghafoor, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, and Mr Sita Ram Kesari. Mr Vengal Rao takes over as industry minister. He succeeds Mr N.D. Tiwari, who moves to external affairs. Mr Arjun Singh is the new minister for communications, while Mr Bhajan Lal gets environment and forests. Mr Shiv Shankar retains commerce. Mrs Mohsina Kidwai has been shifted from transport to the Urban Development Ministry.

The portfolios of the new ministers of state are Mr Panigrahi, home; Mr Munshi, commerce; Mr Jacob, parliamentary affairs; and Mr Prabhu, fertilizers.

[The ministers of state] Mr Madhav Rao Scindia, railways; Mr Jagdish Tytler, civil aviation; and Mr Rajesh Pilot, surface transport, will now hold independent charge of their departments. Mr Ajit Panja is to have independent charge of information and broadcasting. Mr R. N. Mirdha, who has been moved to textile, will also hold independent charge.

The other minister of state to hold independent charge is Mr Brahm Dutt, petroleum and natural gas. Mr Natwar Singh has been moved to the External Affairs Ministry [as the minister of state] while Mr P. Chidambaram takes over home in addition to Department of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pension. Mr K.R. Narayanan gets science and technology. Mr Sukh Ram has been shifted to planning, while Mr Shivraj Patil takes charge of the Department of Defense Production. Mr Santosh Mohan Dev is the new minister of state for communications, and Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad takes over food and civil supplies.

Mr Krishna Kumar is the deputy minister for textiles.

The president, Giani Zail Singh, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers at a simple ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] today. The prime minister and his Cabinet colleagues were present. Answering questions by newsmen after the swearing in, the prime minister said he had inducted some senior people into his Council of Ministers to give added dynamism to the government to ensure sustained all-round development. Later, Mr Gandhi had talks with the president for half an hour.

Steel Sector Cooperation With USSR To Be Strengthened

BK181002 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 18 Oct 86

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have agreed to further strengthen cooperation in the steel sector. This follows talks between the steel minister, Mr K. C. Pant, and the visiting Soviet minister for metallurgy, Mr S. V. Kolpakov, in New Delhi. The Soviet minister offered assistance for technological upgradation of the steel plants at Bhilai and Bokaro. Soviet experts will also assist in running the twin hearth furnace at Bhilai at its rated capacity.

Commentary Views Weinberger's 4-Day Visit

BK191548 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1340 GMT 19 Oct 86

[Defense commentator Raghunath Raina commentary: "The U.S. Defense Secretary's Visit to India"]

[Text] The U.S. defense secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, has just concluded his 4-day visit to India. During his stay, he had talks with prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, and minister of state for defense, Arun Singh. Mr Weinberger also visited India's primier aircraft factory — the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

By all accounts, the U.S. defense secretary's visit to India has been a success. In his own words: It was a wonderful visit in every way. The talks between the U.S. and Indian delegations took place in the framework of the memorandum of understanding which was signed during the Indian prime minister's visit to the United States last year. This [word indistinct] envisages transfer and supply of high technology to India. Among the specific issues which were discussed was the one related to the supply of GE404 engines for the Indian light combat aircraft project. This will be further discussed when the U.S. secretary of air, Mr Aldridge [name and position as heard], arrives in India next month. The Indian spokesman made it clear that the outright purchase of weapons has never been on the cards since it was not any longer New Delhi's policy to buy hardware that cannot later be produced in this country. It was also indicated earlier that though the American makers of the F-20 fighter may have been allowed to offer it to India, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's government is not interested in an aircraft that even the U.S. defense secretary once described as a risk to life.

The supercomputer (?KXMP) required by India basically for weather research will be finally negotiated when an expert delegation from the United States visits New Delhi next month. There was some optimism about the supercomputer deal. The Indian minister of defense told reporters that what remains to be done is the final dotting of the I's and crossing the T's. His remarks were in tune with what a U.S. delegate had to say. India was just a step away from acquiring the supercomputer.

As far as the question of Indo-U.S. ties is concerned, Indian spokesmen have underscored a great deal [as heard] since Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Washington last year. It was, however, stressed that the two sides did not discuss any weapon system and that the question of military cooperation was never discussed. Mr

Arun Singh said that the talks have considerably increased the understanding of each other's positions, beliefs and hopes. Mr Arun Singh remarked: I believe that this being the first visit of the U.S. defense secretary to India, there will be more awareness of what we believe in and our hopes and fears.

During the talks, the U.S. side was reminded of India's nonaligned status and its commitment to self-reliance. India also gave its reactions to the Lindstrom report received some weeks ago after the U.S. mission's visit to New Delhi early this year. A formal document is expected to be sent as a followup to this report which has strongly favored technological cooperation with India. Other U.S. Government agencies — such as the President's Office, the State Department, and the National Security Council — have indicated repeatedly that they favor such bilateral ties with India.

The U.S. defense secretary, Mr Weinberger's, visit to New Delhi has brought about a deeper understanding between the two countries about each other's position. As the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, said at a press conference during his current Australian visit: India wants good relations with both superpowers. It does not lean either way. It stands upright. India's policies are geared to strengthening of world peace, not to favor one over the other, nor does India want to compromise its independent policies and its pursuit of self-reliance at any cost. It is in this overall framework that U.S. defense secretary's visit to India needs to be viewed and assessed.

HINDUSTAN TIMES Reviews Indo-Pak Relations

BK171336 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 11 Oct 86 p 9

[Editorial: "Tell Off Pakistan"]

[Text] The time is soon approaching when Pakistan must be told that enough is enough. Islamabad has never abandoned the efforts to live up to its image as the biggest nuisance factor for India. It often exaggerates the scope of its assignments as a surrogate of foreign powers. If the task alloted to Pakistan is to keep India engaged in petty neighbourly rivalry, it has been doing the job admirably. The unfortunate aspect of Indo-Pak relations is that New Delhi has to deal with a regime which does not represent its people and, therefore, is one that is seldom under pressure of the Pakistan people's opinions about what is good or bad in their country's foreign policy. Had Pakistan been a democracy, it is doubtful whether its people would have allowed their government to interfere blatantly with the affairs of India. There is enough circumstantial evidence (the hard facts are with the Government of India which it says it cannot disclose at the moment) for a prima facie case against Pakistan's involvement in inimical acts against India.

New Delhi may have known a lot more from its mission in Pakistan about such involvement. The people of India would be perfectly entitled to draw their conclusions from the fact that Karachi was agog with rumours about Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination a day before an attempt was made on his life at Rajghat on October 2. One could rest assured that Islamabad would accuse Indian agencies of spreading the rumours in Karachi. That would cynically square with Pakistan's consuming and self-destructive passion for harming India. Except for brief interludes, Pakistan has been so thoroughly pickled in khadi culture since 1958 that its rulers have come to convince themselves of their historical superiority over the khadicultured Indians. The vital message lost on them is that Paksitan's rulers have the ordnance factories as their constituency while India's power stems from its people.

It is necessary to draw Islamabad's attention to the follies it is committing, and tell it that it could not continue to make them with impunity. Pakistan would simply not be allowed to, especially when it sends saboteurs into Kashmir or aids hostile elements in that State, and when it does nothing to stop training Sikh terrorists or break thier close ties with drug mafias. It is common knowledge that Ziaul-Haq sternly put down drug trafficking some years ago at the insistance of the United States. But, then, there was no Sikh factor to be exploited then for the creation of a Khalistan a la Bangladesh. Whatever Islamabad's dreams about a revenge on India these would go up in smoke despite its crucial importance to the American security plans for the Gulf. Pakistan perhaps is nervous about the positive trends in Indo-U.S. and Sino-Indian relations. It may even be apprehensive about the two Super Powers beginning to look at each other, instead of looking away. It may feel a certain urgency to re-examine the strength of its pull with Washington and Beijing. U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger's imminent visit may have further added to this nervousness. But Pakistan must learn a simple lesson. If it is determined to destroy the Simla Agreement spirit (evidenced by Zia's promotion of K. H. Khursheed, of "Azad Kashmir" at Harare) India may not bend backwards to save it merely to earn applause in Western capitals. The Simla Agreement, good-neighbourly relations and nurturing of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] will all succeed India's national integrity, and not precede it.

MUSLIM Carries Interview With Benazir Bhutto

BK210939 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Oct 86 pp 1, 6

["Excerpts" from 12 October interview with Pakistan People's Party leader Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad by Maleeha Lodhi]

[Text] Q: Does abandoning your demand for polls this autumn mean you may be willing to wait until 1990?

A: The people of Pakistan are not prepared to wait until 1990. We did not abandon our call as such. We could have implemented it, but political parties were not convinced whether the implementation of this call given the ruthless nature of the suppression — when 20,000 people were arrested, where 40 people were killed, where homes were raided — would lead to democracy. We have gone back to our pre-August 14 strategy. Our whole strategy earlier had been to create a politcal climate that would permit us to operate in the political field. The strategy was sound; and we would have had autumn polls if the nature of that strategy had not been substantially altered by our decision to go ahead with the August 14 meeting. Still people came out on the streets on their own. I am perfectly satisfied with the response of the people. But I don't believe in bloodshed and anarchy. I want peaceful change. And it is we who controlled it — that is the (consequences) of the second strategy. We did not want a change accompanied by bloodshed and anarchy. Our strategy now is to prove that the opposition won't go away. That you can't have a quasi-democracy without any support. They (the government) don't even have 10 per cent public support. Where the Prime Minister can't go to Sindhri; where the Prime Minister and Chief Minister have to build heli-pads because they cannot travel by road. But despite our doubts and reservation we still feel that the parliament could play the role of a bridge.

Q: Is it likely though that the main focus of your political activity will now be the local bodies poll scheduled for September 1987?

A: I am not in favour now of giving deadlines. The autumn polls deadline served its purpose, in that it showed the seriousness of the people of Pakistan and the political parties. The end result is that today nobody believes that elections should not be held. Even people within Parliament who are opposed to us are giving calls for (mid-term) elections. We have achieved a national consensus on the issue. We are going to push that consensus further by our meetings, which are not going to be confrontationist. They will simply make the point that we exist, that we are not going to go away and that the deadlock will continue until a solution is found.

Q: Nonetheless to go back to the political strategy you had adopted after your return from exile in April, one could call it a three-in-one strategy aimed at driving a wedge between General Zia and the army, between the President and the Prime Minister and between the General and the Americans. Since this strategy has not yielded any results, what do you do now?

A: We are very 'instant' people. We want instant changes. But people can't be rushed; they have to develop and to observe. Today if there is one instant, [as publsihed] tomorrow there can be another. You have to have tenacity and perseverance. I will say more. General Zia has been operating in a manner of stealing our 'Jatois' — that is, coming into our constituencies. Why should we let him be complacent with his 'Jatois'?

We will continue to weaken them by demonstrating our popular support and drawing a distinction between our aims and objectives and the regime's. General Zia has gone touring every cantonment where he has tried to abuse the [Pakistan] People's Party [PPP] and its leadership. The army is a national not a political institution. General Zia should not use it as a poltiical institution. If the army is a political institution then the PPP also has a right to go to the cantonments and put across our point of view.

In this connection, a terrible situation is being created by sending the army into Sind. The secessionists praise General Zia and vice versa. The operation he and Prime Minister Junejo have ordered has led to the destruction of homes and the death of people of Sind. Secessionists exploit such a situation and say 'see we are being colonised, treated like Red Indians, so we must break up the country.' People in the Punjab don't know what is happening — they only see dead bodies of army personnel coming back. A blood feud is being created between Punjab and Sind. This can only play into the hands of the secessioniss.

The number one problem today is the Bangladesh-type situation which has been created (in Sind), and General Zia clinging to the post of army chief of staff. Equally important is the loss of (Pakistani) territory in the Siachen Glacier. I am amazed to read today that General Zia describes the border situation as satisfactory. Well for the PPP it is not satisfactory when 1400 kilometres of territory is lost in Siachen Glacier. I will go further. It is an alarming matter that the person responsible for Siachen Glacier is to be rewarded with the post of Vice Chief of Army Staff. I hope this is incorrect and General Zia will give a satisfactory answer. We, the people of Pakistan, want to know who is responsible for the loss of Siachen Glacier and what action General Zia has taken against those responsible. General Zia must also tell us whether it is true that the responsible person was a relative of his, and that he is now to be rewarded with a high army post for losing Siachen Glacier.

Q: There is a growing view in the country that the only way out of the present political stalemate is some kind of rapprochement between you and General Zia. Is this possible and what could be the basis of such rapprochement?

A: I don't see any rapprochement possible between General Zia and myself. He represents dictatorship and murder? [question mark as published] I represent democracy and the protection of innocent lives. He represents vested interests while I represent the poor. There is no meeting point. The only basis for a solution, not a rapprochement, is that he should leave Pakistan and that elections should be held. That is why I think a buffer is needed because such a great chasm has been created. I don't know who will play the role of that buffer.

Q: You still of course accord the existig Parliament a future role as a bridge?

A: We have permitted them such a role. Whether they have the foresight to take advantage of that, is up to them.

Q: When you call for a review of opposition strategy, are you acknowledging that the PPP has still not found a way of transforming its popularity into an effective force that can dislodge the government?

A: I think it is an effective force. Had it not been so, we would have a Suharto or a Pinochet. Look at the situation in Poland. We don't have that (in Pakistan) today because of the sacrifices and sufferings of our people. Zia's system has been weakened and we are nearer our goal. It took him 9 years to come up with this system and it collapsed in less than nine months.

Q: Nonetheless, what lessons have you learnt from the events of August?

A: To continue with the original strategy of forcing the pace in the political field and to keep all options open. To keep the regime in a corner so that they do not know what we are going to do next.

Q: How true were reports of major disagreements within the MRD [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy] on the course of action for August 14?

A: Certainly the PPP had one view and the others expressed their views. We said alright there must be a consensus especially when people had said we had gone on a solo flight. We asked ourselves should we now follow our own strategy and lead to the break up of the MRD. At that time, we decided it was more important to keep the MRD together and we went along with the decision. I do, however, think meetings should be confidential although we should be free to express ourselves. Even differences mean strength.

Q: Given reports of increases in fighting within the ruling establishment, is there a chance in the future of any political collaboration between you and the Pir of Pagara?

A: In Pakistan we tend to view politics in terms of personalities. That is not the politics of the PPP. We look at how we can achieve our aims and objectives. As such we keep our options open. People ask how can you cooperate with MRD parties when they were part of the PNA [Pakistan National Alliance]. We said, we are all agreed on the 1973 Constitution. People don't go away. You have to learn to deal with them.

Q: There is a view that the People's Party by trying to appeal to everyone, has lost its distinctive identity as a party of radical change (an image that was so important for the party's success in the late '60s and the early '70s). Has the PPP moved from a left of centre party to a right of centre party?

A: No, we are a left of centre party. We are the party of change, that promises change from this decaying dictatorship to a democracy where there is dignity and equality. The PPP is a dynamic party. 60's are 60's and 80's are 80's. After all, objective conditions change but principles remain the same. The PP is the only party with a distinct identity. We believe in a Pakistani identity. We believe in a Pakistani form of socialism which we call Bhuttoism: Islam is our faith; democracy is our policy; socialism is our economy; all power to the people. The PPP has already brought about a revolution in people's thinking: that is the individual is important, the people are important. They can bring change.

Q: What are the reasons behind Makhdum Khaliquz Zaman's resignation from the post of Sind PPP President? Is it your style of leadership or are there other factors?

A: You should ask Makhdum Khaliquz Zaman. He has already answered this question at the (recent) press conference. Makhdum Khalique and many others like him were in the struggle not for individual political offices or ministerships. They had independent political standing which did not depend on the party. They could have fought elections and gone into Parliament and accepted ministries and governorships. But they spurned these offers because of a faith and commitment to Bhutto Shaheed. In the highest traditions of our culture and history they have a sense of devotion and loyalty. Makhdum Khalique is among such people. He felt that being President of the Sind PPP curtailed him. It did not permit him to serve the party and leadership as he would be able to do without the Presidentship. This is a new phenomenon, so it is not easily understandable even by me. When I first got the news of the resignation it was a big shock to me. I had a tremendous sense of disappointment. But once he explained to me, I appreciated what he was putting across, i.e., to separate from an office is not to separate from the struggle. In a way, its like Che Guevara who separated from the offices of the success of the Cuban Revolution and went on to struggle in other countries.

Q: Your critics charge that you have been unable to knit the PPP into a coherent force.

A: Given the fact that political parties were banned, that political activists were kept separated from each other by prison walls and other restrictions, I think the PPP is a tremendously well-knit organisation. To view it as a small, elite organization with paid workers like the Jama'at-i-Islami (which is therefore well-knit) is not right. What we have is consensus. Of course there are some problems of adjustment which there will be when the ban on political activity is suddenly lifted. Some people can't cope with sudden responsibility.

Q: Do you foresee new political re-alignments in the offing given Asghar Khan's exit from the MRD, the emergence of Jotoi's National People's Party (NPP), and continuing tensions within the MRD?

A: As far as people distancing themselves from the MRD is concerned you have seen the public meetings in Moro and Abbottabad. When the people of Moro and Abbottabad have given their verdict there is nothing left for anybody else to add. Within the MRD, people have to decide whether or not to remain in the political mainstream. The PP is the most popular party in the country. Those who want to stay in the mainstream will not want to go for a new alliance when they have (a framework within which they have) cooperation with the PPP. Why should anyone seek an alliance which takes them out of the political mainstream. If anyone does that they will end up like Moro and Abbottabad.

Q: There are indications that the Americans may be interested in backing Jatoi and his band of assorted followers.

A: I prefer to look at it differently. I speak from the strength of the people of Pakistan. We have certain dreams for Pakistan. People look towards the PPP because they feel it can deliver them from the problems they face. As far as the U.S. is concerned, it is a superpower with vital interests in this region. They are not going to be so naive as to ignore popular sentiment.

Q: Throughout 1986 there have been growing signs from Moscow of its desire to find a political settlement of the Afghan conflict. Now, if you were in power today, what would you do on the Afghanistan front?

A: Since I am not sitting in the government I don't have access to all information. But I can say this. Pakistan and Afghanistan have traditionally had problems — insurgencies and claims and counterclaims. But now there are Soviet troops present there, which has inducted a global factor into the situation which cannot be ignored. It won't go away. The Soviet action has led to a U.S. reaction making the whole region a focus of East-West confrontation. So the problem has to be dealt with, without neglecting any of the factors. If you neglect one of them you won't reach a solution. I think the increasing signs of rapprochement (between the superpowers) is good. Some of the indications you mention may be part of that growing rapprochement. I always believed in (superpower) detente. The best period of stability in the world was the period of detente. I hope we can move towards detente. If the PPP was in power today, what we would do with our friends and allies is try actively to seek a solution so that Soviet troops withdraw and the (Afghan) refugees go back.... Only then can the 'cold war atmosphere here be removed and help the countries here become independent and genuinely nonaligned. [no closing single quotation mark as published]

U.S. Caution Urged on Technology Transfer to India

BK210631 Rawalpindi THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 13 Oct 86 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Arms for India"]

[Text] After his talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, U.S. Defence Secretary Mr. Caspar Weinberger, who is on a four-day visit to India, said that the U.S. wanted to have very good relations with both India and Pakistan and that its friendship with India was "perfectly compatible" with its friendship with Pakistan and China. Although it would be premature to express any opinion on the outcome of Mr Weinberger's visit undertaken to reach an agreement for the transfer of defence equipment and sophisticated technology to India, the U.S. Defence Secretary's remarks are symptomatic of the difficulties hobbling the efforts being made to generally improve relations and, if possible, establish a military equation between the U.S. and India. Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the U.S. in June this year was the strongest indication on the part of the two to move in the desired direction. On its part Washington has said that it is ready to help India enter into co-production agreements with American firms in the field of military equipment. But New Delhi has its reservations and preconditions on the issue. While the U.S. thinks its friendship with Pakistan is compatible with its relations with India, the latter has strong objections to the supply of U.S. arms to Pakistan which it says pose a threat to its security. Washington has never bought this line from India, for it is clear to America — as to any other neutral observer — that 40 F-16's in the possession of Pakistan cannot pose a credible threat to India which is armed to the teeth with the latest Soviet weapon systems and recently imported West European arms. It remains to be seen how Delhi exploits the unconcealed U.S. desire to improve relations with India and increase its leverage in that country in order to ensure greater acceptable of its viewpoint on U.S. arms to Pakistan.

An equally important element in this configuration is New Delhi's close ties with Moscow in defence and other fields. The U.S. policy to wean India away from this path has recently found encouragement from its perception that India under Mr Rajiv Gandhi is willing to lessen its overwhelming arms dependence on the Soviet Union. Such signals have no doubt emanated from New Delhi, but it would be wrong to think that a military and strategic equation so painstakingly built up over the last 30 years can be qualitatively affected by the supply of a few arms and computers. For, Delhi not only gets arms from Moscow, but also shares its strategic perceptions in the region and aligns its policies with Moscow's on crucial issues — Afghanistan is one example out of many. In other words, Delhi's ties with Moscow go deeper than mere arms supply, and the U.S. will have to weigh carefully if transfer of U.S. technology and defence equipment can have any long-term impact on them. It is in this context that doubts have been expressed in U.S. defence circles about military secrets passing into Soviet hands through India. The long-standing and deeprooted Soviet influence in India will be an importance factor in shaping the course of negotiations between the two sides.

India's Arms Acquisitions, Accusations Viewed

BK210342 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] A spokesman of Pakistan's Foreign Ministry stated here on Tuesday [14 October] that the country did not want to enter into an armament race in the region as a matter of principle. It is fully aware of the enormous pile of weapons that India has acquired not only from the USSR, but from Britain, France, and West Germany also, and has acquired diverse technology for the manufacture of sophisticated arms including tanks, aircraft, and naval weapons. During this whole period, Pakistan has acquired only a few aircraft from the U.S. and is trying to replace old and outdated military equipment. Pakistan has never, on principle, either attempted to protest to the supplying powers to any of India's acquisitions, nor gone out to match them. Pakistan believes that it is the sovereign right of every independent country to acquire arms for self-defense. The principle has been reiterated time and again and has been consistently acted upon.

It has been openly mentioned in press reports that apart from the arms purchase deal which India discussed with the U.S. secretary of defense, Mr Caspar Weinberger, it openly and strongly protested against Pakistan being sold certain types of weapons in very small quantity. India had at least recognized at one time, when foreign ministers of Pakistan and India met in Islamabad, the right of every country to purchase whatever it considers proper for its defense. But the right has since been ignored. During the visit of the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to the United States a great deal of noise was made protesting against Washington selling arms to Pakistan. The protests have again been repeated during the visit to India of the U.S. defense secretary.

One important sheet anchor which has been made for building its case is the potential of Pakistan for building a nuclear bomb. Not only does India have that potential since the last 12 years, it has also tested it through an underground explosion in the Rajasthan desert. India asserts that it has not gone ahead with making and piling a nuclear arsenal. Pakistan has the right to take this assertion with a pinch of salt. India has neither signed the international proliferation [as heard] treaty, nor given a positive reply to Pakistan's suggestion for a bilateral agreement with the right of each to inspect the other's nuclear installations. Pakistan has repeatedly asserted that it was prepared to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty provided India also did so.

Pakistan, no doubt, has a nuclear program. But it is completely peaceful and is only meant for the production of nuclear energy to meet the acute shortage. The production and maintenance of a nuclear arsenal, a delivery system, specialized defense [words indistinct]. Pakistan has neither the intention nor such resources for developing such a luxury. Repeated raising of objections by our neighbor, however, leaves a bad taste in the mouth. The putting off of peaceful initiatives harms both the countries and progress is retarded.

India has also been voicing uncalled for accusations against Pakistan, such as its involvement in the [word indistinct] Sikh agitation, assassination attempt [on Rajiv Gandhi], and deliberate involvement in hijacking of the Pan Am jumbo. A closer look into all these charges will easily prove that they are baseless. What does India want out of these? To see this area unstable? India must understand that it could hardly be in the interest of the Indians themselves. Peace and progress in Pakistan would mean peace and progress in India. Pakistan has repeatedly asserted that it does not want any arms race nor any involvement in the internal affairs of its neighbors. Positive words for better relations on the basis of sovereign equality would benefit both India and Pakistan and would also countribute to peace in the region.

Spokesman Cited on Afghanistan Issue, Weinberger Visit

BK221146 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] The UN General Assembly is due to take up the Afghanistan question for a debate on the 4th and 5th of next month. The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, leaves for New York on the 27th of this month to lead Pakistan's delegation during the debate. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that it is Pakistan's hope and effort that the world body would once again endorse the resolution with an overwhelming majority so as to contribute to the building up of an atmosphere which will lead to the end of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan is interested in acquiring indigenous national capability for surveillance, but it has yet to be concluded how best this capability can be acquired within our resources. He said the matter is receiving serious consideration of the government in view of the three-fold increase during the current year's violations of Pakistan's airspace from across the border with Afghanistan. He said the matter has been discussed internally and also in our talks with the American officials. The matter was also taken up by the prime minister during his visit to the United States.

Asked to comment on the visit of the American defense secretary, Mr Weinberger, the Foreign Office spokesman said the visit provided a most welcome opportunity for exchange of views between the two countries. He said the two countries hold regular 6-monthly meetings to update information. Replying to a question, he said the economic and military sales credit package for 1987-1993 will be finalized by the U.S. Congress and it is expected that economic assistance and military sales credit will amount to $670 million a year.

Pakistan favors a comprehensive test ban treaty but has no reservation about the partial test ban which prohibits nuclear explosions in the atmosphere, underground, and in the ocean. Replying to questions at a news briefintg in Islamabad today, a Foreign Office spokesman said Pakistan has not ratified the partial test ban because it has loophole for carrying out nuclear explosions. He said India, taking advantage of this loophole, carried out a nuclear test in 1974. Therefore, Pakistan has all along been advocating for a comprehensive test ban treaty.

SRI LANKA

Government Launches 'Another Operation' in Mannar

BK220801 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 22 Oct GMT 0750 86

[Text] Colombo, Oct 22 (LANKA PUWATH) — A curfew was clamped on Mannar this morning as government troops launched a second operation to flush out isolated pockets of separatist terrorists.

The northwestern Sri Lankan fishing centre which is connected to the mainland by a causeway was the scene of a major battle last week between government troops and separatist terrorists. The final toll in that abortive terrorist offensive was 65 terrorists dead including their leaders and fourteen servicemen.

The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH as a followup to the operations launched on 12th October and in order to flush out isolated pockets of terrorists the security forces have launched another operation within the government agent's division Mannar.

In order to protect civilians a curfew was imposed today at 0600 hours (local time). The time of lifting the curfew will be notified later.

'Terrorist' Attack 'Repulsed' in Mullaittivu

BK200907 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0836 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] Colombo, Oct 20 (LANKA PUWATH) — A gang of separatist terrorists fired at the dollar farm in Mullaittivu, eastern Sri Lanka yesterday. The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that Sri Lankan Government troops repulsed the attack forcing the terrorists to flee into the jungles.

Three soldiers were slightly wounded.

Security Forces Capture EROS 'Terrorist'

BK200909 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0840 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] Colombo, Oct 2 (LANKA PUWATH) — A Security Forces patrol captured A. Abdul Gaffoor a terrorist belonging to the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) yesterday in Eravur, Batticaloa District in eastern Sri Lanka, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH.

Meanwhile, M. L. Abdullar Gaffoor who was the only passenger in a bus travelling to Akkaraipattu had been badly assaulted by three armed separatist terrorists.

Relations With Ivory Coast Reportedly 'Severed'

LD221126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] Following the resumption of ties between the Ivory Coast and the regime occupying Palestine and the reopening of that country's embassy in occupied Jerusalem, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government has severed its ties with the Ivory Coast.

Our Foreign Ministry has issued a statement, referring to plots hatched by U.S. imperialism to force its puppet regimes in Africa to establish ties with Israel, and calling the resumption of ties between the Ivory Coast and the Zionist regime an act of great treason to Muslim and Arab nations in the region, especially the Palestinian nation. Considering the subservience of the Ivory Coast regime to the Zionists, for opening its embassy in occupied Jerusalem — an act which Israel's foremost supporters have refrained from committing owing to the strong reaction by world Muslims — the Foreign Ministry has declared that it has severed its ties with the Ivory Coast.

The Foreign Ministry also says that this action by the Ivory Coast is not only an insult to the Palestinian Muslim nation, but — considering the coordination between the regimes of Israel and South Africa, as two arms of world arrogance led by the United States, for suppressing the oppressed nations of the Middle East and Africa — this action is tantamount to opening the gates of an African country to those two regimes for halting the freedom-seeking struggles of blacks and infiltrating all Africa.

So the Islamic Republic of Iran Foreign Ministry announces the severence of ties with that country, recalls its embassy staff from Abidjan and declares to the Ivory Coast Embassy in Iran that it should take steps to close down its embassy in Tehran as soon as possible.

Khomeyni, Montazeri Meet 18 Oct, Review 'Issues'

LD181110 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 18 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA — The leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri met and conferred here Saturday. During the meeting, Imam Khomeyni and Ayatollah montazeri reviewed important issues of the country.

Clandestine Radio Reports 'Verbal Clash'

TA211931 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Oct 86

[Text] In the aftermath of the differences that arose between Khomeyni and Montazeri at their meeting on Saturday, Montazeri is refusing to accept visitors, thus underscoring the rumor that he has withdrawn as Khomeyni's successor. On the basis of reliable reports transmitted by our correspondents from circles in the Islamic government, Montazeri's anger is so intense that he was not even ready to meet with his companion, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who intended to go to Qom to mediate.

Our correspondents, quoting these same government circles in Tehran, pointed out that last Saturday Sheykh Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri went to Jamaran in order to complain to Khomeyni about the chaotic situation in the Islamic Republic and, particularly, the arrest of one of his relatives by the guards in Qom. It has been said by informed circles in the Islamic Government that at the conclusion of this meeting and lengthy talk Khomeyni did not accept the complaint of Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri.

It is noteworthy that on this same day, namely Saturday, the Islamic Republic's radio broadcast the report of Montazeri's meeting with Khomeyni, but claimed that these talks centered on the country's current developments. Nevertheless, government circles in Tehran emphasize that the (?reasons) that caused Montazeri to visit Jamaran included: The compalint about the arrest of one of his relatives, the chaotic situation in various spheres, and even a proposal to end the war with the aim of maintaining the prestige of [word indistinct].

According to informed individuals in the Islamic government, Khomeyni rejected all the views of Sheykh Montazeri, resulting in a verbal clash between them. According to eyewitnesses, eventually Montazeri left Khomeyni's room in a state of anger and immediately departed for Qom without referring to the differences.

At any rate, and following these reports, we once again should inform you that since Saturday Montazeri has refused to receive visitors. However, a more significant point is that the Islamic government decided to dispatch Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Qom to mediate and try to resolve the differences between Montazeri and Khomeyni, but before Hashemi-Rafsanjani's departure he was informed by Montazeri's office that he will not be prepared to receive him.

Foreign Minister, IRGC Chief Depart for Libya 22 Oct

LD220659 Tehran IRNA in English 0656 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 22, IRNA — Ministers of foreign affairs and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Mohsen Rafiqdust, left here for Tripoli, Libya, Wednesday morning.

Speaking to reporters prior departure, [as received] Velayati said that the objective of this visit was further expansion of fraternal relations with Libya. He added that due to common stances of Iran and Libya, the two countries should exchange views on matters of mutual interest including the Iraqi-imposed war, situation in the Middle East and Africa, and plots of international arrogance against Libya. A number of officials of the Iranian Foreign Ministry are accompanying the ministers.

Velayati on Visit's 'Objectives'

NC220645 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps [IRGC] minister, Mr Mohsen Rafiqdust, and the members of their delegation left for Tripoli early this morning for talks with the Libyan authorities. Before his departure, Mr Velayati spoke to our correspondent about the objectives of his trip.

[Begin recording][Correspondent] Mr Velayati, could you tell us about the members of your delegation and the goals of your visit?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr Rafiqdust, the esteemed minister of the IRGC; Mr Salek; the chief of the committee for the support of the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq; Mr Lavasani, director general of political affairs for Arab and African countries; and the respected head of the [word indistinct] department are among those friends who have done liaison work for us in the fraternal country of Libya, and they are coming along, too. The objective of our trip is to broaden and expand Iran's ties with its Libyan brothers. In light of our close relations with Libya, we have to exchange opinions from time to time. This is particularly applicable to the latest developments in our region and in northern Africa, which include the most recent trends in the fighting, our victories on the fronts of the imposed war, Libya's imbroglio with its enemies, that is, our common foes, and the pressure applied on that revolutionary country. It is essential that we remain in close and constant touch, for this will enable us to coordinate on ways of combating such conspiracies and coercion. [end recording]

'Shares' Offered to Employees of Production Units

NC211058 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 21 Oct 86

[Excerpts] In accordance with the law regulating ownership of production units, a number of shares in the Tehran Oil Refining Company have been distributed among the employees of this unit. One of the officials of the organization for the expansion of ownership of production units gave details to our correspondent, which you will now hear:

[Begin recording][Correspondent] In order to implement the law for increased ownership of production units, employees are being offered shares in their production units. I asked one of the officials of the financial department of the organization for the expansion of ownership of production units to tell us how this works.

[Official] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In view of the imam's repeated requests for greater participation in the country's economic affairs and for the attainment of the objectives and obligations of the organization's financial department as ratified by the council in 1985, steps have been taken to offer shares in some production units to the employees, including those of the Tehran Oil Refining Company. These steps will enable the employees to avail themselves of credit and cash facilities to pay for the shares. They have been very well received by the employees. [passage omitted]

In all, as a result of the allotment of shares against cash and credit by the financial department, the employees have gained 10 percent ownership and enjoy benefits such as the interest on the shares, dividends on the investment, and interest on the profits. They can also exercise their due rights by voicing their opinions at general and board meetings.

[Correspondent] What units are we referring to and who holds the remainder of the shares?

[Official] The criterion used for the distribution of shares is that an employee working for the company for (?1) year can obtain a credit of up to 300,000 rials and cash benefits for the purchase of shares of 500,000 rials with a [words indistinct] from the financial department. The employees are awarded 10 percent of the shares, and the rest are held by the financial department, which has jurisdiction over them, and by the other shareholders of the company.

[Correspondent] To what other units does the law apply?

[Official] As outlined by the council, this law applies to those units that have been operating for 5 years and whose annual sales exceed 250 million rials or investment capital exceeds 200 million rials. They can become a shareholding company. [end recording]

Asylum Said Considered for Irish 'Freedom Fighters'

LD211848 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 21 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 21, IRNA — An informed source at Iran's Foreign Ministry told IRNA Tuesday that contacts have been made with the ministry to grant political asylum to two Irish freedom-fighters.

The issue, the source added, was under careful consideraiton due to "humanitarian reasons".

The Iranian Embassy to The Hague Monday announced readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to grant political assylum to Rev. Brendan Mcfarlane and Gerard Kelly, two Irish freedom-fighters imprisoned in the Netherlands.

In a report from The Hague, the French news agency said that the Dutch Supreme Court is to meet to decided whether to extradite the two Irish fighters to Britain.

In its statement, the Iranian Embassy said that this proposal was made due to humanitarian reasons since the ruling of the Netherlands Supreme Court may put lives of the two freedom-fighters in danger.

Rev. Mcfarlane and Kelly were arrested in Amsterdam last January and the British government has requested their extradition.

Iranian Victories Termed Superpowers' 'Weak Spot'

PM201407 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Oct 86 p 2

[Editorial: "The Role of Iranian Victories in the Strategic Analyses of the Major Powers"]

[Text] From the events that have occured and the viewpoints that have been expressed about the Iraq-Iran war in the past few weeks, one can gather that the situation in the region is about to witness basic events and changes. Islamic Iran, because of its presence and movement and because of its revolutionary stance, will come out of these events victorious.

With regard to the fate of the imposed war, what has been for some time the determining factor is the Islamic Republic of Iran, its policies, programs, and plans. These have been executed by the warriors of Islam and officials.

However, along this path there have been active and semi-active elements who have had an effect on the events of the region, especially the imposed war. Now these elements are trying to move developments in a direction that would guarantee and safeguard their own interests.

The stances, actions, and remarks made by Arab countries in the area and the indirect interventions of the superpowers are precisely because their interests are tied to the war...a war which they imposed on Iran at one time and which they fanned and expanded. But now they say they have come to a "mutual agreement" over "the necessity of ending the war."

Last week AFP reported from New York that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has claimed that the Soviet Union and the United States agreed during their talks in Stockholm and Washington that a quick end to the Iraq-Iran war would be in the interest of both the USSR and the United States. He has also said that the expansion of the war during the current year to the GCC nations has placed these countries in danger.

Shultz has once again warned that the continuation of the war is threatening U.S. interests.

The latest position of the United States with regard to the imposed war can only be evaluated and understood when we look at the weaknesses of the superpowers, especially the United States and the Soviet Union, with regard to an Islamic and revolutionary Iran and with regard to the latest trend in the imposed war.

The first weakness of the two superpowers in connection with the Islamic Republic of Iran can be found in the manner in which Iran conducts its relations with the two opposing blocs. This means that because of Iran's sensitive and strategic position in the region, a tendency by the Islamic Republic toward any of the superpowers would mean weakness and shakiness for the other in the region.

This issue, or the first weakness, which causes a contradiction in the superpowers' interests with regard to Iran, is a fundamental axis and a powerful card in the hands of our officials. With clever diplomacy they can direct our foreign policy.

The second weakness of the superpowers is caused by the victorious trend of the Iranians in the imposed war and the expansion and dissemination of the Islamic Republic of Iran's political and ideological control over regional countries. It is the existence of this weakness that has caused Shultz to say that it is in the common interest of the United States and the Soviet Union to come to an agreement over "the necessity of finding a quick end to the war."

The plain truth of the matter under the present circumstances and in connection with the Iran-Iraq war is the steadfast and firm control of the Islamic Republic. The trend of events and developments in the past year have been so clear and obvious that political analysts and military experts have come to the conclusion that "the winner of a prolonged war of attrition will, without a shadow of a doubt, be Iran."

The huge and complex Val Fajr-8 operations which resulted in the capture of the Al-Faw area, the powerful defense against the Iraqi attack in Hajj 'Umran and the neutralization of their attack in its early stages, the quick pushback of the Ba'thist forces from the city of Mehran and the taking of about $1 billion of arms as booty in this operation, and finally the Fath-1 operations which were launched yesterday by the Muslim warriors and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, are all powerful evidence forcing Eastern and Western experts to predict Iran's victorious trend.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has proved that it has the initiative in the war with a huge reserve of knowledge, experience, and political and military tactics and with untapped power, technical and economical capabilities, and a never-ending flow of manpower. It has proved that it can change the shape of events on the war fronts anytime and in any way it wants and can use this to suit its own interests.

Now the conditions are such that in any and all of our attacks and offensives there is hope for victory, and the manner of operations has shown that the probability of an Iranian victory in each attack has increased.

But we know that every attack and every victory for Iran primarily leaves deep ideological, political, social, and psychological effects on the Middle East. It causes the region's revolutionary circles and anti-imperialist, liberation movements to become more active. It also causes instability in the ruling governments and chaos in the capitalist powers' international relations.

This is why we say that the trend of Iranian victories is a weak spot for the superpowers. Now they want an end to the war and they are cautious in their search for a solution so that the issue would come to an end with minimum loss of interest.

In the midst of this, the United States, because of its vast interests in the region, is trying to cover up this weakness with the help of its friends. It is also trying to turn "the first weakness" into a point of strength. What has caused the recent changes in the policies of the United States and its friends in the region with regard to the Islamic Republic is first of all Iran's victories and, second, the fact that Iran's foreign policy has become more active and progressive.

In any case, as was said earlier, the one determining factor in connection with the fate of the imposed war is the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Utilizing elements that could be effective in changes and developments shows the revolutionary awareness of our officials. What must not be forgotten, however, are the delicate complexities which are always entwined with political affairs. These complexities and the manner in which they are dealt with can have positive or negative results. [Koranic verse]

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,631

LD211626 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 21 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 21, IRNA — An undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and some light as well as heavy vehicles of the Iraqi troops, and several bunkers, and one munitions dump were destroyed throught [as received] the fronts by Iranian artillery fire on Monday, said a military communique here Tuesday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,631 said that Iranian Gendarmerie forces pounded Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops. Enemy engineering operations were also halted.

An Iraqi convoy of 20 vehicles was shelled in Yabis, southern fronts, Monday causing heavy casualties and losses to the enemy forces, the communique said.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iranian patrols reconnoitered and ambushed Iraqi troops in their positions Monday killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers.

The communique furthermore said that Iranian artillery fire Monday on Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts killed or wounded a number of enemy soldiers and destroyed some of their bunkers. One enemy munitions dump was also set ablaze.

In Marivan operational theater, northwestern fronts, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several light and heavy vehicles and some bunkers of theirs destroyed when they were subjected to Iranian artillery fire on Monday.

In the western fronts, Iraqi forces sustained casualties and their fire was silenced in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants on Monday, according to the communique.

The communique said that reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters as well as movement of enemy vehicle columns were checked in Mehran and Meymak operational theaters on Monday.

Basra Train Station 'Heavily Shelled'

LD211632 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 21 Oct 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Oct 21, IRNA — Basra rail station was heavily shelled by Iranian artillery early Tuesday in retaliation for an Iraqi air raid on a train near Andimeshk Monday in which five civilians were martyred and 15 others wounded.

More than 300 heavy artillery rounds were fired at the station including the train depot, crane section, railways center, traverse warehouse, fuel tanks of locomotives, and military platforms as of 10:30 hours local time (07:00 GMT) Tuesday.

The station is 10 kms. south of Basra in Al Ma'qil area which is used for carrying military equipment and munitions for Iraqi Third, Fourth, Sixth and Seventh Corps.

After Bayt-al-Moqaddas operations [Jerusalem operations] which resulted in the liberation of the Iraqi-occupied Khorramshahr in late April 1982, the Iraqi rulers transfered the station from the city center to Al Ma'qil area.

Iraqi Oil Platform Hit, 'Set Ablaze'

LD211652 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 21 Oct 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Oct 21, IRNA — Parts of Iraq's Al Bakr oil platform south of the Al-Faw peninsula in the Persian Gulf waters were hit and set ablaze by the coastal artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Tuesday.

Heavy casualties and losses were inflicted on Iraqi troops stationed on the platform during the shelling which was in retaliation for the Iraqi air raids on Iranian residential areas.

Barrier Said Built To Guard 'Remnant' Kirkuk Complexes

LD211720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Oct 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, following the Fath-1 operations, the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy, in order to safeguard the remnants of his oil installations in the city of Kirkuk, has set up a 25km barrier on the Dumalan Heights for protection. The enemy has deployed eight battalions along this barrier.

This report indicates that on 18 October the Peshmerga of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan launched an attack on the enemy from three axes killing and wounding a number of their troops. During this attack, the enemy line collapsed and the Muslim revolutionaries captured many weapons as booty, including machinery and light arms, RPG-7's and wireless transmitters.

On 19 October, three enemy helicopters attacked a base of the forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, in the Fath-1 operational theater, and during an intense clash, one of the enemy helicopters was damaged. The damaged helicopter was forced to land and was captured as booty by the forces of Islam.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 OCTOBER 1986

PLO

The "Palestinian Revenge Organization" claimed responsibility for the assassination of PLO official Mundhir Abu Ghazalah in Athens 21 October, Radio Monte Carlo reported. A spokesman for the group described Abu Ghazalah as "one of 'Arafat's emblems" who "played a role in the return of the Yemeni Jews to occupied Palestine," the radio added. Nevertheless, a PLO executive committee and military command statement broadcast by Sanaa Voice of Palestine held Israel "completely responsible" for the death of Abu Ghazalah, who was "commander of the Palestinian naval forces." The PLO mourns one of its "best militant leading cadres," the statement said, and it will "not leave unpunished" those responsible for the attack.

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio questioned Amal leader Nabih Birri's claim that his organization has custody of the captured Israeli pilot, citing information that the Israeli is being held and interrogated by the Syrians. South Lebanese Army (SLA) commander Antoine Lahd likewise dismissed Birri's claim during a news conference reported by Jerusalem radio. Lahd's public appearance followed a recent claim that he had been replaced as SLA commander.

In another development, Beirut radio reported renewed fighting between Amal and Palestinian gunmen in the Al-Rashidiyah camp area near Tyre, citing an Amal announcement that seven Amal militiamen were killed or wounded in a Palestinian attack early 23 October.

Israel

Security authorities arrested the Fatah squad responsible for a 1983 bombing during which 6 bus passengers were killed and some 50 wounded, Jerusalem radio reported. Information on the squad was obtained during the interrogation of prisoners suspected of carrying out the recent grenade attack in Jerusalem.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes carried out a "surprise attack" on a "massive enemy concentration" causing "immense losses" in men and materiel, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Gulf maritime sources cited by KUNA reported that a Kuwaiti tanker was hit by an Italian-made rocket after a naval vessel detained and searched it off the coast of Dubayy. According to an Iranian military communique cited by IRNA, nine cargo ships and tankers were inspected in the Strait of Hormuz and allowed to continue.

In Paris, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with his French counterpart Jean-Bernard Raimond, who subsequently disclosed that their talks covered the war and French moves to normalize relations with Iran, AFP noted.

Iran

Break With Ivory Coast — Diplomatic relations with the Ivory Coast were severed following that country's announcement of its intention to reopen its embassy in Jerusalem, according to a Foreign Ministry statement cited by Tehran radio. However, according to Rabat radio, the Moroccan Foreign Ministry informed Arab envoys of the Ivorian president's proposal to locate the embassy in Tel Aviv. On the other hand, the Israeli Foreign Ministry discounted reports that the Ivory Coast is reconsidering the Jerusalem site, Jerusalem radio noted. The radio pointed out that none of the five Arab League members represented in Abidjan has broken relations.

Ties With Libya — In a statement to JANA upon his arrival in Tripoli, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is accompanied by the Revolution Guards Corps minister, praised bilateral "fraternal ties and strong relations" and noted the solidarity among Iran, Libya, and Syria. The visit will contribute to the two countries coordinating their positions, Velayati said in remarks cited by IRNA. Meanwhile, the Brazilian paper *Veja* reported that to circumvent a Brazilian ban on arms sales to Iran, Libya has been selling Iran spare parts to repair armored vehicles captured from Iraq.

Libya

Tripoli radio broadcast statements by Basic People's Congresses calling for the execution of Muslim Brotherhood members and denouncing "shaykhs who express corrupt and divergent views."

Saudi Arabia

According to a report in *Jane's Defence Weekly* cited by AFP, Saudi Arabia has invited six West European governments to submit proposals for a contract to supply six to eight large submarines.

Defection of DRA Pilot

An Afghan Air Force pilot defected to Pakistan 23 October, landing his MiG-21 at an air base northwest of Islamabad, according to an *Afghan Islamic Press* announcement cited by AFP.

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23 October 1986

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Balkh Workers Attend 'Warm' Soviet Troop Send-Off

LD230619 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Today thousands of Balkh Province workers gave a warm send-off, expressing fraternal gratitude, presenting flowers, and chanting friendship slogans to a military unit of the USSR, who after accomplishing their internationalist duties together with the heroic DRA officers and men in safeguarding the territorial integrity, national independence, and defense of the gains of the April Revolution, were returning to their peaceloving country via the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Bridge on Amu Darya in Hayratan. [passage omitted]

The returning regiment, amid the warm enthusiasm of thousands of people who were chanting friendship and solidarity slogans, singing farewell songs, flying pigeons of peace and presenting flowers, left for their peaceloving country via the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Bridge.

Delegate Returns From World Peace Congress 23 Oct

LD231414 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] Kabul, October 22, BAKHTAR: The World Peace Congress of Copenhagen focused on the ensurance of regional and world peace and the cessation of regional tension, said Abdul Rahim Hatef, chairman of the Central Council of National Fatherland Front upon his return at Kabul airport.

Abdul Rahim Hatef who was heading the Afghan delegation to the conference added that the issue about the situation around Afghanistan and intervention into the internal affairs of the DRA was also discussed at the congress. The congress ratified the position of the DRA as well as the measure taken by the Soviet Union on the termination of unilateral nuclear tests. It was hoped that the United States should join the Soviet Union for the cause of mankind's security.

The participants of the conference supported the peace proposals of the Soviet Union at Reykjavik summit and wanted the United States to come to accord with the Soviet Union on banning nuclear tests and to remove the worry of the people of the world in this respect.

Abdul Rahim Hatef said that the participants of the conference reaffirmed the peaceful policy of the DRA including the peace proposal of 1980 and 1981 and the announcement of national reconciliation by the DRA. The conference also confirmed the policy of the DRA for peaceful political solution of the situation around Afghanistan and the decision by the DRA and the USSR on the return of the six regiments of the limited military contin gents of the Soviet Union and asked Pakistan and the United States to follow a reciprocal approach.

The Afghan delegation explained to the participants of the conference about the gains of the April Revolution which was warmly received by the participants of the conference. The speakers also strongly denounced foreign intervention into the internal affairs of the DRA, said Abdul Rahim Hatef.

Delegates from 126 countries, 73 international organisations, and 32 trade unions had participated at the 5-day long Copenhagen conference. A total of 2,468 representatives had attended the conference.

Rebels Said 'Crushed'; Ammunition Seized in Paghman

LD221813 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] The country's heroic Armed Forces, with the cooperation of the toiling inhabitants of the villages of Paghman District, carried out a successful combat operation recently and have crushed a counterrevolutionary group who had intended to settle in the remote regions of Paghman District.

BIA reported that during this successful combat operation a number of these criminals were crushed and our forces seized 11 surface-to-surface missiles, 59 mortars, 40 shells for recoilless rifles, 20 rocket shells, 31 antitank and antipersonnel mines, 110 boxes of DShK ammunition, 19 kg of an explosive substance, several weapons together with 11,000 rounds of ammunition, a quantity of medicine, and antigovernment propaganda leaflets.

Gandhi Says Cabinet Reshuffle Involved 'Performance'

BK221614 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Seven new ministers were inducted into the union Council of Ministers today and five were dropped. There has been a major reshuffle of the portfolios. [passage omitted]

Answering questions by newsmen after the swearing in ceremony, the prime minister said he had inducted some senior people into his Council of Ministers to give added dynamism to the government to ensure sustained all-round development. Asked whether party reorganization is also on the anvil, Mr Gandhi said perhaps. He said the long-awaited Cabinet expansion had involved detailed assessment of the performance of persons concerned. Some ministers of state who had done good work have been given independent charge doing away with the Cabinet ministers. Mr Gandhi said that he is satisfied with the performance of his Council of Minister; it is a good group and working very well.

Responding to another question, the prime minister said overall the government has functioned well in all spheres, especially economy, finance, foreign policy, and planning. Mr Gandhi admitted that his experiment of having one minister for the crucial portfolios of external affairs and commerce had not yielded the desired result. He said this involved too much work for a single person.

Later, Mr Gandhi had talks with the president for about half an hour.

Pakistani Claim of Soviet Base Facilities Denied

BK231419 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] India has expressed surprise at the Pakistani allegation that it has provided base facilities to Soviet naval ships in Visakhapatnam in southern state of Andhra Pradesh. A Foreign Office spokesman in New Delhi expressed surprise at the allegation and described it as baseless. He said the fact of the matter is that no naval ship from any country visited Visakhapatnam in the last several years.

The spokesman recalled that in India's draft for a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation given to Pakistan, a suggestion had been made that neither country should give bases or military facilities to third countries. India considered this important for establishing durable peace and a friendly, harmonious bilateral relationship. The spokesman said this continues to be our position. On the other hand, Pakistan informed us that they did not want to foreclose their option on the question of providing military bases.

Asked what the subsequent developments were the spokesman recalled the visit of the U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Enterprise* to Karachi in March last.

The All India Radio correspondent reports that 14 foreign warships visited Indian ports during 1985. Out of these, only two were from the Soviet Union. The others were from some Western countries, including U.S. and nonaligned countries. During the current year also 13 naval ships visited Indian ports, and only 1 was from the Soviet Union.

Dehli Cites Junejo on No Indian Interference in Sind

BK221610 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] The Pakistan prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has said that he does not see any sign of India's interference in the internal affairs of this country, particularly in Sind. According to PTI, Mr Junejo told newsmen at Peshawar airport that the situation in Sind Province is well under control.

Police Fire at 'Activists' in Darjeeling; None Injured

BK230320 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] An uneasy calm prevailed in the Darjeeling hill areas yesterday while security forces continued to patrol sensitive areas. The Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police Force personnel conducted nightlong combing operations in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and Kurseong towns. Police fired three rounds on a group of the so-called Gurkha National Liberation Front activists who tried to set on fire the house of a CPI-M worker and hurled bombs at a tea estate in Singrimari. According to the police, no one was injured in the firing.

Junejo Reiterates Stand on Afghanistan Issue

BK211103 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 21 Oct 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has reiterated Pakistan's principled stand on Afghanistan issue, calling for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan, restoration of its Islamic and nonaligned status, right of the Afghan people to form a government of their choice, and to enable the Afghan refugees to return to their homeland in honor and dignity. Addressing a representative tribal jirga [assembly] in Peshawar today, he said it was in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations, the ICO, and the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit. It has been our endeavor to solve this problem at the earliest. It was with this spirit that Pakistan had been participating in the UN-sponsored Geneva talks. Pakistan will not only continue but also accelerate its efforts for a political solution of this issue. The prime minister said, as a result of foreign intervention in Afghanistan, one-fifth of its population was forced to flee their country and 3 million of them had sought refuge in Pakistan. Pakistan had provided them shelter and relief purely on Islamic brotherhood and humanitarian grounds and would continue to do so till they return to their homeland with honor and dignity.

Referring to the increased air and ground violation of Pakistan territory by the Kabul regime, the prime minister said we had shown restraint till now to avoid any threat to peace in the region. But this should not be taken for weakness, as our Armed Forces and 90 milion people are fully capable of defending their borders.

Turning to the demands pinpointed in the address of welcome, the prime minister said special attention was being given to the solution of the problem of the tribesmen. An employment cell has been set up at the federal level to provide employment to the jobless young tribesmen. He announced increase of 5 times in the tribal allowance —mawajib. He said it has also been decided to increase 15 seats for tribal students in the medical colleges from the next academic year. The prime minister highly appreciated the services and sacrifices rendered by the tribesmen for the cause of Islam in Pakistan. Pakistan, he said, had been established in the name of Islam and hoped that Islamic values would be enforced in every sphere of life.

Earlier, a tribal elder, Haji Malik Shahzada Khan Kukikhel, in his address of welcome, appreciated the government's efforts for the speedy development of the tribal area and the Islamization of the society.

Spokesman on Afghanistan, Indian Nuclear Capability

BK221636 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Excerpts] The UN General Assembly is due to take up the Afghanistan question for debate on the 4th and 5th of next month. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan leaves for New York on Monday [27 October] to lead Pakistan's delegation. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that it is Pakistan's hope and effort that the world body will once again endorse the resolution by an overwhelming majority so as to contribute to the building of an atmosphere which will lead to the end of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The spokesman said only with the pull out of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan will there be a restoration of balance in the region.

Referring to the recent Reykjavik summit, the spokesman said it appears that there was no outcome of the talks on Afghanistan. Pakistan believes that the Soviet Union must be reminded on every occasion that a (?normal) situation in Afghanistan will be restored only if it ends the reign of sin and destruction in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

The spokesman said it is no secret that India is capable of producing nuclear weapons. This was stated by the Indian prime minister himself. It is also known to all that India has already produced 40 kg of plutonium. India will benefit remarkably from the manufacture of plutonium in years to come as the reactor in Madras also begins to manufacture plutnium which does not fall under any safety regulation.

The spokesman also said that visits by the naval ships of friendly countries to Pakistan is a normal thing. More than 80 naval ships including those from the United States, France, Britain, and Indonesia, had made friendly visits to Karachi harbor in the past. Referring to the criticism of the Government of India, the spokesman said not only does India provide facilities for visits by foreign ships but it has also provided permanent facilities for Soviet naval ships at Visakhapatnam port.

Delhi Reports Ethnic Clashes in Karachi; 3 Injured

BK230304 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] In Pakistan, there have been ethnic clashes in Karachi during the mourning of 30 people killed in Tuesday's bus-rail collision.

An agency report says that the crowd went on a rampage, looting and burning properties in the suburb of Korangi. Three persons were reported to have been injured in the clashes. Security has been tightened in the area.

AIP Cited on Defection of Afghan Air Force Pilot

BK230745 Hong Kong AFP in English 0741 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 23 (AFP) — An Afghan Air Force pilot defected to Pakistan on Thursday, landing his Soviet MiG-21 at Kohat Air Base 170 kilometres (100 miles) northwest of here, the pro-resistance *Afghan Islamic Press* (AIP) reported.

The pilot headed for Kohat shortly after taking off from base in Afghanistan on a military mission, AIP said.

The aircraft was surrounded by Pakistani security forces on the tarmac and the pilot surrendered to the authorities, AIP added.

Khamene'i Receives War Information Chief 22 Oct

LD221816 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 22, IRNA — President and head of the Supreme Defence Council, 'Ali Khamene'i, received head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Kamal Kharrazi, here Wednesday morning.

Kharrazi reported to the president on the activities of the headquarters including recording events of the Iraqi-imposed war and also its future programs such as holding seminars on various aspects of the war both at domestic and international levels.

The president issued the necessary guidelines.

Khamene'i Sends Message on 'Suspicious' Machel Death

LD222314 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

1030 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] Following the death of President Samora Machel of Mozambique in a suspicious plane crash, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i sent the following message of condolences to Robert Mugabe, head of the Nonaligned Movement:

Your Excellency Robert Gabriel Mugabe, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. The news of the death of your long-standing comrade, comrade of the oppressed people of Africa, and our close friend, His Excellency Samora Machel, late president of Mozambique, as a result of a totally suspicious incident, deeply distressed us and again demonstrated the need for stronger solidarity among the progressive and revolutionary states, and the need for the unity of the Nonaligned Movement.

We believe, now that one of the most outstanding elements of the Nonaligned Movement and a hero of the oppressed African nation's independence has become the target of a possible conspiracy, it is necessary for the Nonaligned Movement, and especially your excellency, to pay particular attention to full investigation of the incident, identification and exposure of the possible agents involved, and recognition of the roots of the inhumane deeds of the enemies of that region's people. It is hoped that the movement will be able to find an appropriate answer to the sinister objectives of state terrorism and global arrogance.

The Islamic Republic of Iran declares its full readiness to offer any assistance and cooperation in this matter and expects to see an effective response from the Nonaligned Movement and from your excellency.

Musavi Cautions Nation Against 'Baseless' Rumors

LD222333 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 22, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi cautioned the Iranian people here Wednesday against giving credence to baseless rumors spread by agents of the global arrogance. He said such rumors were diverting the people's attention from the war fronts in the hope of creating a crisis on the eve of the fateful Iranian offensive against Iraqi forces.

Speaking at the end of a Cabinet session here, the prime minister said that the devoted Iranian people should further contribute to the country's affairs in order to foil these rumors.

During the Cabinet session, Health Minister 'Ali Reza Marandi presented a report on the new medical services fees.

Minister of Housing and Urban Development Serajuddin Kazeruni, gave a report on the activities of the urban estate organization. He said that 127,564 plots of land measuring 86.2 million square meters have been given to applicants since March 22, 1986.

Oil Minister Returns From OPEC Meeting 23 Oct

LD230936 Tehran IRNA in English 0836 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 23, IRNA — Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh returned here from the 79th Geneva conference of oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Thursday morning.

Iran's proposal for oil production quotas was accepted with minor adjustments in the quotas of a number of member countries. OPEC's production ceiling was increased by 200,000 barrels a day and extended for November and December.

The 79th conference was the lengthiest meeting in OPEC's history in which the oil ministers held 16 days of deliberations.

Tehran Reports Departure of Battalions for Fronts

LD230327 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

1630 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Excerpts] This afternoon seventeen battalions of the 'Inheritors of 'Ashura' from Khorasan departed for the battlefronts from the burial site of the holy seventh imam, may peace be upon him. According to a Central News Unit report, the combat Basij force that gathered in Mashhad from all over Khorasan Province and which was organised and regrouped there, left for the fronts after performing some ceremonies of prayer recitals and chest beating in the compound of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Basij unit base.

Also, three battalions of engineer combat forces from the War Relief Headquarters of the Reconstruction Jihad of Khorasan, under the name of the 'Inheritors of Imam Hoseyn'convoy, departed for the war fronts this morning. Two battalions of conscript guards' forces from Ilam Province too, after receiving the necessary military training, left today for the war fronts. We also draw your attention to the departure ceremonies of forces from Qazvin and Shahr-e Kord, where the seventh 'Karbala' Marchers' convoy and the second convoy of 'Inheritors of 'Ashura' from Qazvin, numbering six specialized combat battalions, left this afternoon for the fronts. [passage omitted]

The third convoy of 'Inheritors of 'Ashura' from the Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari region, at a strength of one battalion of volunteer and redeployed forces and Basij forces from the guards and from tribal units, also left this afternoon for the fronts. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,632

LD221530 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 22, IRNA — Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected nine cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Wednesday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,632 said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several tanks and observation posts of theirs destroyed in the southern fronts by heavy Iranian artillery and tank fire on Tuesday. Parts of enemy positions were also set ablaze.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces, the communique said, heavily shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the western and southern fronts Tuesday silencing enemy fire and setting afire several vehicles and gun emplacements of theirs.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the western fronts Tuesday raging somewhat more heavily in Mehran and Meymak operational theaters, the communique said.

Elsewhere, the communique said that an Iraqi armoured unit operating in Nahr 'Anbar sustained heavy losses when it was hit by Iranian artillery fire. Enemy engineering operations were also checked in this front.

An Iraqi supply truck was destroyed by Iranian artillery fire in areas overlooking Marivan, northwestern fronts, on Tuesday, according to the communique.

The communique furthermore said that movement of Iraqi infantry soldiers as well as enemy engineering operations were checked on Tuesday.

Communique No 2,633

LD231632 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 23, IRNA — The Iranian Navy intercepted and inspected 13 foreign ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday, and allowed them to continue voyage since no suspicious case was found, according to a military communique released here Thursday.

The 2,633 communique of the Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces added that Iran's combatants of Islam, firing on enemy strongholds in the northwestern operational regions, checked all activities of the Iraqi forces and inflicted some casualties and losses upon them during Wednesday and Thursday.

Enemy fire in the Panjwin theatre, in the said operational region was silenced by the Iranian defenders who dealt more blows upon the latter, and prevented flights of Iraqi helicopters over the Sar Dasht front in the northwestern area.

Further down, in the western fronts, some Iraqi troops were killed or wounded when the Iranians destroyed four group bunkers and a heavy vehicle during Wednesday and Thursday.

An Iraqi patrol group, attempting to penetrate the Iranian forces' positions in the Kani-Sheikh [name as received] theatre of the western fronts, was soon forced to flee with some losses by the fire of Iran's Muslim forces.

The enemy forces sustained further casualties and damage when their motorized columns in the western fronts of Maymak, Mandali, Badra and Kani-Sheikh [names as received] were subjected to the Iranian artillery fire.

Fire exchanges continued between the two sides in the southern fronts, raging heavier in the Talaiyeh and northern Majnun Island areas, where some Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded by heavy fire of the Iranian forces. Also, several Iraqi group bunkers were demolished in the said areas.

Two Iraqi patrol groups, trying to reach the Iranian forces' positions in the area of the Meimeh [name as received] river and in the Abdanan theatre of the southern fronts, were routed by the Iranians.

Iran's Muslim forces also checked movements of Iraqi tanks in the operational regions of Basra, Eyn Khosh and in the area of Anbar River.

The Iranian Gendarmerie forces, defending their positions in the southern fronts, demolished several enemy group bunkers and killed a number of Iraqi troops during the afore-mentioned period, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Kurds Down 2 Iraqi Helicopters

LD221751 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 22, IRNA — Muslim Kurdish Peshmerga fighting against the Iraqi regime downed two Iraqi military helicopters and seized another one intact, last Saturday, reports from Iraq said.

Three Iraqi helicopters on a mission to attack positions of Kurdish Peshmerga in areas between Kirkuk and Irbil Provinces, northern Iraq, were shot down by the Kurds and their pilots were killed. Pilot of the third aircraft escaped anti-aircraft fire of the Muslim Kurds by landing in the area where he surrendered to the Kurds.

The same reports added that the Iraqi Muslim Kurds attacked a number of bases of the Iraqi Ba'thist forces in the same area and killed 18 Iraqi soldiers. During these attacks Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga seized a number of weapons and a military vehicle.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 OCTOBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Two Iraqi warplanes were downed by antiaircraft fire in western Iran, IRNA reported.

In remarks cited by KUNA, the new Soviet ambassador to the UAE Feliks Nicolayevich Fedotov disclosed that the USSR had contacts with Iran and Iraq as well as with Islamic states, the Arab League, India, European leaders, and the United States in attempts to end the war. The envoy termed the conflict a "crime" and said that without Soviet arms supplies to Iraq under their defense agreement, "the matter would have been extremely difficult."

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that casualties rose to some 15 killed and 29 wounded in "very serious" fighting among Palestinian and Amal gunmen in the Al-Rashidiyah camp area near Tyre. In an effort to defuse the situation, an extraordinary meeting of the joint security committee called for an immediate cease-fire, the radio noted. Meanwhile, in a statement cited by Beirut radio, Amal officials in the south demanded the execution of the Palestinians who committed the "hideous massacre" of Amal "mujahidin" while a PLO military statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio accused Amal of "criminal attacks" in coordination with "Zionist and Lahd agressions."

Libya

In a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the Revolution Guards Corps minister, Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud reaffirmed Libya's support for Iran in its war against the "Ba'thist-Zionist enemy," Tehran radio reported.

PDRY

Prior to YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid's departure for his first official visit to Ethiopia, former President 'Ali Nasir's son and six others who had taken refuge in the Ethiopian Embassy were allowed to leave the country, according to an official announcement cited by AFP.

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Najibullah Holds News Conference 18 Oct

LD232323 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 21 Oct 86

[Press conference held by PDPA Central Committee General Secretary Najibullah, on 18 October at the Storey Palace of the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul; unidentified moderator identifies journalists and presents their questions — recorded]

[Text] [Najibullah] Ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to welcome you. Surely by now we know each other. We have met each other. We were together in Shindand and also in Konduz. However, I should say that we were working in different directions. Today we meet each other here. I am aware that many rules exist in your profession, one of them being that a journalist and reporter should have the opportunity to tell their readers, listeners and viewers: I was there and I saw. We had this in mind when we invited you to Afghanistan. I hope that you have seen many things in our country. I am also aware that journalists do not like to be lectured, so in order that my talk be not regarded as a speech, I propose to deal with the actual business right away.

[Moderator] A question by a reporter of French radio and television: Why has a joint decision been made regarding the partial withdrawal of the Soviet limited contingents? What is the political significance of this from Kabul's point of view?

[Najibullah] Our view in this regard has been reflected in the well-known statements of the DRA Government dated 14 May 1980 and 24 August 1981. I remind you that the complete return of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union to their homeland depends on cessation of aggression from outside and international guarantees on its nonrepetition.

It is a joint decision because it cannot be any other way. The Government of Afghanistan asked the Soviet Union to send limited military contingents to our country. In accordance with a mutual and joint agreement, these contingents entered Afghanistan. Naturally, now, when necessary conditions have been created, parts of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union are returning to their peaceful country in accordance with a joint decision. The political meaning of this act is clear to everyone; that is, it is a step of good will and is a momentum for speeding up the solution of the situation concerning Afghanistan. Also, it is aimed at positive progress of the process of the Geneva talks with Pakistan.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the same journalist: What can you say about the growth of your country's economy?

[Najibullah] I can say that for the successful development of the economy, our country has enough possibilities, and our people love work. However, at the present moment the destructive activities of the counterrevolution create trouble for us and create obstacles in the way of complete economic reconstruction. Despite this we have gained many achievements in the period after the revolution. The fact that for the first time all ministries have fulfilled their plans during the first 6 months [as heard] makes us happy.

[Moderator] Another question from the same journalist: If the ranks of the counterrevolutionaries increase, would or would you not ask the Soviet Union for more troops?

[Najibullah] I think that the DRA Armed Forces are increasingly consolidating and will not provide the opportunity for the counterrevolutionary ranks to strengthen.

[Moderator] A question by [Vaykov], TASS correspondent: How do you evaluate Afghan-Iranian relations?

[Najibullah] As far as the DRA is concerned we have always extended the hand of friendship to our neighbors and have hoped for good-neighborliness between the people of our countries. We have said explicitly that the key to the improvement of relations between the DRA and Iran is in the complete and guaranteed cessation of interference and external aggression against Afghanistan.

[Moderator] A question from a REUTER correspondent from Great Britain: A while ago in one of the Central Committee plenums you spoke about the existence of factionalism in the party leadership. Have you now removed this problem?

[Najibullah] The struggle for unity has been and always will be the most important duty of a political party. The PDPA has traveled a difficult road of struggle, hard and full of twists. Without a doubt, in the PDPA, being infected with the disease of youth as other young parties, the appearance of factionalism was possible. In your question you rely on the documents of the recent party plenum. If you study them carefully you will definitely find the answer to your question. The party leadership with all political means — that is to say, through the strengthening of discipline equal for everyone — is struggling for unity by broadening political education, work, and by attracting every member and every patriot to the revolutionary process.

[Moderator] Thank you. A question by a journalist from Sweden and a journalist from Norway: Please shed light on the policy of reasonable compromise in the framework of national reconciliation?

[Najibullah] In my view reasonable compromise is an accord between various political forces; it is mainly for achieving peace and for joint work in the interest of our homeland. I do not want to say anything in advance; in a few days the extraordinary session of the National Reconciliation Commission will be convened in which a series of important documents will be endorsed.

[Moderator] Thank you. A question by the correspondent of *Pravda*, published in Moscow: You have stressed time and again that the genius of V.I. Lenin and foresightedness of Amanollah Khan [King of Afghanistan 1919-29– are reflected in Afghan-Soviet friendship. In our opinion great opportunities existed in Amanollah Khan's activities for educating youths with a spirit of patriotism. Do you envisage using these opportunities?

[Najibullah] It is a saying of our people that one should not be an alien in his own country. We are greatly considering propagating the activities of Amanollah Khan, who signed the first Afghan-Soviet friendship agreement and who visited the Soviet Union.

We also want to use some examples from the lives of other national and progressive figures of Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Thank you. A question by a correspondent of Polish television: In which fronts, Comrade General Secretary, do you foresee the possibilities of Afghan-Polish cooperation?

[Najibullah] Relations between Afghanistan and the People's Republic of Poland are friendly and fraternal. We have developed these relations in the fields of politics and economics, trade and culture. Future prospects exist for further development of such relations. We see great possibilities of developing cooperation with your state and people.

[Moderator] A question by a French radio-television correspondent: In your view can the decision regarding the partial withdrawal of Soviet troops assist the effort in finding a solution for the Afghanistan situation?

[Najibullah] We are hopeful on such an issue; and so far as I am aware the Soviet leadership has a similar stand.

[Moderator] Thank you. another question: What is the prospect for national reconciliation in Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] We think it is good and favorable. Serious practical steps have been taken. We are ready for compromise to the extent of creating a national unity government. The return of the six regiments, in our opinion, is another invitation for dialogue. We are waiting for a serious and constructive reply from the opposite sides. The people are tired of war and plunder. Human beings strive for the cessation of bloodshed, and it is the duty of all serious and responsible politicians to devote all their attention in this direction — that is to say to direct their attention toward the restoration of peace and the cessation of bloodshed. The DRA and the revolutionary government see their immediate duty in this task.

[Moderator] Thank you. A question by the correspondent of [name indistinct] from Spain: What is the model for your country's development? Is it possible that Afghanistan will join CEMA?

[Najibullah] I do not like to talk about models for development. This issue is a kind of effort by the West to keep Eurocommunism, which exists in Spain, alive. Our country is following the path of national democratic revolution. This is an antifeudal and anti-imperialist path. At the same time it is the path of nonalignment. As you are aware, 25 years ago Afghanistan was one of the founders of the Nonaligned Movement. Our country has remained backward in its economic and social development. Our tasks in international life are goodneighborliness, cooperation, development of trade, and traditional relations. At present the DRA is an observer in CEMA. Naturally, we do not reject reciprocal cooperation.

[Moderator] A question by the correspondent of NHK from Japan: How do you assess PRC policy on Afghanistan? Despite the fact that official information in Afghanistan puts China in the same line with the United States, Pakistan, and Iran, in your 15 and 17 October statements you mentioned nothing in this respect.

(Najibullah) Our foreign policy is directed toward friendly relations with all states and countries of the world, in particular with neighboring countries. Regrettably, the present leadership of China, in financing, arming, and equipping the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands, also follows a hostile policy against the DRA. We are hoping that the Chinese leadership changes its approach toward the DRA.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question: Talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan in Geneva are stalemated. Does this mean that the talks were not succesful? Is there a possibility of resuming talks in the near future?

[Najibullah] I do not agree that talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan in Geneva are stalemated. There is specific relative progress and we are hoping for more productive results to emerge from the subsequent rounds of talks than emerged in past rounds.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question: Can you specify the basic difficulties in these talks and their causes?

[Najibullah] The basic difficulties and barriers in the course of these talks were that our goodwill, rational stand, and flexibility did not obtain a similar reply from the opposite side.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question: What portion of Afghanistan's area is under the control of your Army?

[Najibullah] The DRA Army does not have the duty of area control. The DRA Army is defending the April Revolution, carrying out successful operations in those areas where the terrorist and savage rebel bands raise their heads.

[Moderator] Thank you. Do you regard yourself as a religious personality? Do you believe in God? Do you go to a mosque?

[Najibullah] Islam is the religion of the majority of people of Afghanistan. In such a country could I come into the world a non-Muslim? Also, the characteristics of our national and democratic revolution are not inconsistent with the just principles of Islam. On the other hand, a question can be raised that [words indistinct] alleging that why are we in agreement with clergymen and our friends?

Yes, PDPA leadership members go to mosques during their visits. In the grand and large mosques of our country, such as the grand mosques of Mazar-e Sharif and Herat, we can talk closely with our people.

[Moderator] A question by a *Nepszabadsag* correspondent: Comrade General Secretary, please tell us: Is there, in your view, a chance for a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan situation? How do you regard your country's future relations with Pakistan and Iran?

[Najibullah] As far the DRA is concerned we are trying to ensure that the consequences stemming from the undeclared war and from interference and aggression against our country are being eliminated, and that the Afghanistan problem is being solved by peaceful means and political talks. We can confidently say that if Iran and Pakistan stop the interference and aggression on the territory of our country, our relations with them will be friendly. Our people have a common history and common culture. We have many similar mountains, rivers, valleys, and forests.

[Moderator] Thank you. A question by an *Unsere Zeit* correspondent from the FRG: How will the PDPA strengthen and consolidate its influence among the masses? How does the party train its members?

[Najibullah] In its 16th plenum the PDPA put forward the idea of expanding the social pillars of the revolution. The objective of this was to attract the broad masses of patriotic, national, and democratic people as well as (?new) political forces to our society's political life. We have taken specific steps forward in this regard. Elections for the local organs of state power and administration have been completed in all provinces and districts, and 14,000 delegates have been elected from various strata. We have allowed the representatives of various societal strata and classes and representatives of the clergy and nationalities and tribes, whose majority are nonparty people, into the composition of the Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers. Soon, work on the draft constitution will be completed, and our society's social and political life will be strengthened and developed on the basis of the first constitution since the April Revolution. People are increasingly doing their share in defense of the gains of the revolution. [PDPA members] are trained in the spirit of love for their homeland, readiness in defense against every kind of aggression, and active participation in the construction of a new society, as well as in the spirit of internationalism, respect for people of the world, and consolidation of the national wealth of our people, that is Afghan-Soviet friendship.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the same correspondent: How has the PDPA developed in recent years?

[Najibullah] More than 45,000 new members have ben absorbed into the PDPA during 1985-86. Presently a total of more than 160,000 people are PDPA members. [Words indistinct] that is 64 percent of these PDPA members are engaged in struggle and fighting in the hot battlefields, carrying arms in one hand and the banner of victory in the other hand, for the realization of the aspirations of the April Revolution.

[Moderator] Thank you. A question by an Indian correspondent: Comrade General Secretary, please speak in detail on the struggle of your party for the reconstruction of its ranks and national reconciliation?

[Najibullah] Esteemed comrade reporter, I think speaking in detail in response to your question will take a lot of time. However, you can find details in official party documents, including the document of the 19th PDPA Central Committee Plenum. But, if we speak in relation to the question, the main issue in reconstruction is the style of work, that is, dynamism in solving the problems. We believe that revolution demands action. The principle of reconstruction of work is simple and understandable: that is, coming out from behind the desks and going to the masses, abandoning bureaucracy and going to villages and hamlets, and lessening the gap between word and deed. If you are asking about the reconstruction of the party ranks, then we can say explicitly and reliably that in the first rank of this work are the young, energetic, self-sacrificing, and initiating people, who will be able to make responsible, independent, resolute, and courageous decisions, and take steps for their realization.

[Moderator] Thank you. A question by the correspondent of radio Austria: A lot has been written about your new policy. Can you please name the main points that are different from the policy of the previous phase?

[Najibullah] No, I cannot. Our strategy has not changed. Concerning tactics, our tactics have become more flexible. That which we call the renovation of style does not contain any new points or new (?demands). All necessary and correct words have been said before on the subject. All problems lie in how to implement these issues. We have centered the party's attention on the organization of affairs in practice. I once again point out that the revolution consists of energy and action.

[Moderator] Thank you. A question from the same correspondent: You invited some groups with whom you have been fighting for talks. Can you specify which group you want to talk with and which groups you do not. Under what circumstances and in what forms can they take part in the realization of power in the country?

[Najibullah] In one of my previous interviews I mentioned that the DRA Government is holding talks with over a hundred bands or groups. In your press conference such detailed information has been given in this respect that we cannot add anything else to it. However, we can summarize it in one formula: We can have talks with all those who (?want) peace and who advocate a patriotic platform for democratic changes and transformations in our society and do not prevent the course of our reconstruction work.

[Moderator] Thank you. A question by the *Morning Star* correspondent from England: The Western press says that despite the revolutionary government controlling the cities, the cities are under siege by the so-called freedom fighters. The same press says that in the event of the withdrawal of Soviet forces, mojahedin will be able to take power into their hands. What is the scale of the military threat created by the counterrevolution?

[Najibullah] The bourgeois press regrettably always and clearly publishes materials about our country in a distorted manner. People's sovereignty has been established in all provinces. Evidence indicative of this is that, as I told you before, elections have been completed in all provinces and districts. Counterrevolutionaries with their anti-popular activities are increasingly exposing themselves in the eyes of people. Counterrevolution does not have any program or ideology. Counterrevolution has no future and cannot have one. Certainly, the counterrevolution is presently kept alive by generous (?charity) from imperialism. The counterrevolution has created a specific threat against our revolution. Of course, we have gathered all our forces so that DRA national and popular forces and the Armed Forces crush the counterrevolution as soon as possible.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question: Your government strives to shield borders with Pakistan. What are the main ways of achieving this aim?

[Najibullah] In our country, modern border forces have been established in the framework of the DRA Armed Forces and they are growing. In our country, voluntary people's militias have been formed who, through joint efforts, have closed huge supply roads keeping weapons and rebel caravans from Pakistan. It also should be said that the issue of shielding the borders is being carried out with the voluntary efforts of the DRA Pashtun tribes, who had a historic, significant role in this regard.

[Moderator] In your opinion, what consequences will the counterrevolutionaries and their imperialist supporters see from the withdrawal of six Soviet regiments this month?

[Najibullah] I think you should ask them this question. However, I think the counterrevolutionaries and their masters calculate that with the withdrawal of six regiments, the defense of the DRA will be noticeably weakened, giving the rebels a chance to achieve successes in the struggle against the people's sovereignty. This calculation is doomed to failure. The partial withdrawal of the limited Soviet military contingents totally proves the increased combat capability of the Armed Forces and the state of Afghanistan.

[Moderator] The British press continuously accuses the Soviet and Afghan forces of oppression and pressure in the villages, while not accusing the counterrevolutionaries. Please answer these accusations and also comment on the fact that Margaret Thatcher received them as mojahedin on a path to freedom.

[Najibullah] This sort of reasoning is fabrication, and there is no fact to prove this. But, on the contrary, we have facts in our hands that the counterrevolutionaries, rebels, and even some of their foreign assistant experts, wearing Afghan and Soviet uniforms, attack the villages and the people, causing terror, and taking photographs to use for propaganda in their press. They named them the savageries of Afghan and Soviet forces. I give you an example from recent days: Over the course of a few hours, 700 surface-to-surface rockets were fired by rebels and Pakistani forces on the District of Spin Boldak.

About the receiving of a Commander Abdol Haq by Thatcher, once again this is a clear and open manifestation of the interferences of imperialist forces, including so-called Great Britain, in the internal affairs of the DRA. Thank you.

[Moderator] How are the interests of the United States and other Western countries, who are expending millions of dollars for arming the counterrevolutionaries, going to be met.? [Najibullah] It is clear to everyone that the imperialists are expending their money uselessly and in vain. Whether it is the United States, Great Britain, or other NATO member countries, they have objectives in this issue: to drive the national democratic April Revolution to failure and to consolidate their stands in the Middle East so that other countries cannot learn from the experiences of the DRA. Thank you.

[Moderator] A question from [words indistinct] a Soviet writer: I travelled the distance between Shindand and Koshk with the [word indistinct] regiment. In Herat, I saw a young boy on crutches, who was throwing flowers on a Soviet tank that was going by. What do think caused him to do this.?

[Najibullah] Maybe an Italian mine disabled the young boy, and maybe the Soviet doctors treated him. Therefore, the young boy bid farewell with enormous love by throwing flowers. This is not a possibility but a fact. Thank you.

[Moderator] A question by an (?NHK) correspondent from Japan: What do think? Could a positive effect be expected from the Soviet-U.S. summit in Iceland on the issue of settling the Afghan situation? What do you expect from these talks?

[Najibullah] The Soviet Union has played a serious and [word indistinct] philosophy, that is the philosophy for safeguarding peace. [passage indistinct] We hope the mentioned policy and philosophy could be understood in Washington, Islamabad, and in Tehran. Thank you. [3-minute passage indistinct]

[Moderator] A question by the *Le Monde* daily from France: How do you assess the country's situation in comparison to 1983-1985? Have the form of combat or the kind of weapon been changed?

[Najibullah] I have partially answered this question before. The situation in the country is consistently going toward improvement. A number of [word indistinct] great operations have been advanced on the rebels. Our Armed Forces are strengthening. Specific successes have been achieved in industrial development, and the process of democratization of the country's sociopolitical life is continuing. In regard to the forms and type of combat, I could say that this is related to what extent the imperialists are expanding the dimensions of war and what type of weapons they are placing at the disposal of the rebels. Recently, [word indistinct] of rebels, the heavy weapons have increased. The amount of air defense equipment, [word indistinct] reactive rockets, Italian mortars, [word indistinct] have increased noticeably; that is, the masters are arming their mercenaries generously. Naturally, we have to use specific measures for arming our forces with weapons to struggle against such an enemy, and evaluate the styles for advancing combat activities. Thank you.

[Moderator] A question by a Polish radio-television correspondent: In your opinion what are the fundamental tasks of the PDPA in normalizing the situation in Afghanistan? What duties and aims does the Commission for National Reconciliation have? How do you assess the role of the religious figures in normalizing the situation in the DRA?

[Najibullah] All three question, which have been asked by Comrade [name indistinct], the Polish correspondent, have logical connections. Therefore, I want to answer all three questions together. Great and serious tasks are before the PDPA. The most important of all is stopping the bloodshed and establishing peace and tranquility in our homeland. This is also the aim of the National Reconciliation Commission. The role of the religious figures in normalizing the situation in our country looks very important. The representatives of patriotic theologians could deliver the peaceful invitation of the party and revolutionary state to the hundreds and thousands people. They could encourage those who still have not laid down arms to refrain from meaningless bloodshed. Thank you.

[Moderator] A question by Swedish radio-television: Sixty-five percent of your foreign trade is with the Soviet Union, and raw material is the major part of your export to the Soviet Union. Is this not causing you anxiety? This matter makes your country strongly economically dependent on a foreign country and, it reduces the speed of your country's transformation from an exporter of raw material to an industrial country.

[Najibullah] What is your proposal? Is Sweden carrying out any selfless assistance to transform our country into an industrial country? We have not seen signs of such a proposal thus far.

Let us come and talk sincerely. Our country is trading for profit and in order to sell those goods we have on hand. We have raw materials and our industry is developing. We need funds for its further development. By selling our raw materials, we are receiving these funds. I should say to you, however, that our trade is not limited to the sale of raw material. In this connection in the press conference on economic issues, some points were covered. I have talked about not being afraid of so-called dependence on the Soviet Union. Our relations with the Soviet Union, on the contrary, are free from any kind of economic dependence. Thank you.

[Moderator] A question by *Le Monde* from France: The Estaqelal High School, which is an Afghan-French school, was the symbol of the French cultural presence in Afghanistan. This presence has lessened very much in recent years. Do you feel sorry for this? Do you wish to remedy this situation?

[Najibullah] Before the revolution, our cultural relations with France were really growing. After the April Revolution, these relations have been reduced. We are not guilty in this issue. Naturally, there are people in France who dislike the transformation in our country. However, we are in favour of expanded growth of a relationship with France because France is the country that has given the world, (?Walter), Rodin, Balzac, and Matisse. France is a country whose cultural treasure has undeniably been the world's cultural treasure from long ago.

[Moderator] Could you comment on the most important material in the new DRA Constitution?

[Najibullah] This draft has not yet been issued and is on its way to completion. If you want to familiarize yourself with this draft, please leave your address with us and we will send you a copy of the draft immediately after it is published. Or, return 1 or 2 months later and we will be happy to see you in Kabul again. Thank you.

[Moderator] How do you assess the level of the relationship between Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan and its future.

[Najibullah] Excellent. The government of Socialist Czechoslovakia has given us real assistance in constructing some power energy, industry, and construction projects. Taking this opportunity, I express thanks for this assistance. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by a Kuwaiti journalist: What can you say on the relationship between the DRA and Islamic Arab countries?

[Najibullah] Because Afghanistan is an Islamic country, we pay particular attention to the consolidation and expansion of our relations with Islamic countries, among them the Arabic countries. Thank you.

[Moderator] Another joint question: What is your approach to journalists who write about your country?

[Najibullah] We are interested to see the representatives of the realistic world press. The noble journalists can always count on our visas. We invite you through open doors, but not through chimneys and small windows. Here among you, I can see those journalists who are presenting the truth about our country in their journalistic activities. You have the right to use as you wish all those things that you have heard or seen. Believing that these will not be against the people of Afghanistan, I hope you will be realistic.

[Moderator] A question by Finnish radio and television: In the recent PDPA Central Committee plenums, decisions were made on consolidating unity and being collective in party leadership. Before your election to the post of general secretary, how was the work situation in this respect? What gains have been achieved in the past 5 months?

[Najibullah] Five months is not a long time. But, we are satisfied that we are on the right path and party and people are completely supporting our policy. The further order of party leadership to strengthen collectiveness and openness has been the specific goal of this time. Time brings new demands. We want to have a real collective leadership and collective thinking. We are trying to achieve the real participation of each member of the leadership in solving the most important issues. The greater the circle of leadership and party activities, the better. As I said before, for this reason, the structure of the Central Committee increased two fold. In recent months, we engaged in evaluating work style and methods. This work is complex and has a wide scope. This includes measuring for the cadre policy, organizing the systematic education of party cadres, consolidating links between the capital and provinces, and many other issues. We go on more duty trips. Meeting people daily has been organized by the party leadership and now every ordinary Afghan can see anyone, up to the general secretary. We received the people at Delkosh Palace, where people were not allowed before. Thank you.

[Moderator] Question by (Timor Hiader), a Soviet writer: Some time ago, the DRA Revolutionary Council approved the title of Hero of the DRA. What can you say about the people who receive this honor for the first time?

[Najibullah] First of all, I will look at those who lost their lives in the struggle for the April Revolution and were given the title of Hero of the DRA after their death. Everyone in our country and party is familiar with the name of Faiz Mohammad. He commanded a company and a battalion in the Afghan Army and later, he was deputy commander. He became a PDPA member in 1965. He worked in some party and state posts and was a member of the Central Committee and Revolutionary Council. In 1980 Faiz Mohammad was heroically martyred while carrying out an order of the PDPA Central Committee in Paktia.

The name of Brigadier General Ahmaddodin has a good reputation. He was a professional military man. He was fighting bravely for the cause of the April Revolution. At the same time, he was the head of the (?General Staff) of the No 1 military corps and lead an active operative group in (?Peshghor). When the (?Peshghor) garrison was attacked, he organized the defense of the garrison and fought with rebels to a heroic end.

On the occasion of Sarandoy day, the title of DRA Hero was given to Lieutenant Sayd Habib after he died while working as the head of a special section of Sarandoy in Fariab. He had taken part several times in combat operations and was wounded in his leg during one of the operations. He did not leave the battlefield and continued to lead the operations. In the same battle, he was wounded a second time and was martyred as a hero. Very soon, his wife was martyred by rebels, as the follower of her husband's path.

Now, about those who are alive. This year Lieutenant Joma Khan is 23 years old. He has done a lot during this short time in defense of the people's sovereignty. He is the commander of the Brigade of (?Desant). He has taken part several times in battles with the enemy. He received the Second Star and four medals, which shows his bravery and courage.

The title of Hero of DRA has been given to Brigadier Sherzamin, deputy commander of one of the units and companies of the air forces. He is a brave and professional pilot and trains his [words indistinct] professionally. He has received the decoration of the Red Banner. He was attacked by a shell in one of the battles, and was wounded twice. He did not surrender to the enemy and has returned to his friends.

Lieutenant Mohammad Joma is another Hero of the DRA. He is the commander of a unit and company in Konduz Province. Three of his family members have been martyred for the cause of the April Revolution. He has received a series of decorations and medals for bravery and courage. He has taken part in more than 200 operations. He was seriously wounded in one of these operations; his leg was cut off, yet he continued to lead the operation. This is characteristic of the DRA heroes. The DRA ArmedForces and all youths will follow their example. Thank you.

Pakistani Envoy Summoned Over Border Overflight

LD231827 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul was today summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The following points were made to him by the director of the First Political Department.

Despite repeated protests by the DRA, Pakistani military forces continue aggression against the territory of the DRA. For example, on 12 October, at 0740, 2 Pakistani Hunter aircraft carried out a reconnaissance flight across the borders at Urgun, leaving DRA territory at 0820.

The DRA Government denounces this violation by the Pakistan Air Force and strongly protest to the Government of Pakistan. It demands that the Pakistani military authorities end such provocative actions; otherwise, responsibility for the serious consequences will rest on the Pakistani side.

Ershad 'Officially' Declared Elected President

BK201557 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Oct 86

[Text] The Election Commission has announced the official results of the presidential polls held on the 15th of this month. A press release of the commission issued in Dhaka today said President Ershad received 21,795,337 votes. His nearest rival, Mohammadullah Hafezji Huzoor, got 1,510,456 votes. The commission officially declared Hussain Mohammad Ershad elected as the president. This was also notified in the official gazette today.

'Formally' Takes Oath of Office

BK231253 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Excerpt] President Ershad has formally taken the oath of office as the third elected president of Bangladesh. The swearing in was conducted by the chief justice of Bangladesh Supreme Court, Mr Justice A.S.K. Munim, at a simple but impressive ceremony at Banga Bhavan this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Ershad Announces New Cabinet 24 Oct

BK240746 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] President Ershad has announced the 26-member new Cabinet. The president administered the oath of office to the members of the new Cabinet at Banga Bhavan in Dhaka this morning. As already reported, the old Cabinet resigned yesterday before President Ershad took oath of the office of the third elected president [words indistinct]. All the members of the old Cabinet including Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and three deputy prime ministers are in the new Cabinet and retain their portfolios. The members of the new Cabinet and their portfolios are:

Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury - post and tele communications;
Deputy Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed - industry;
Deputy PrimeMminister M.A. Matin - communications;
Deputy Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed - commerce.

The ministers and their portfolios are:

Mr Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam - law and justice;
Maj Gen (retired) M. Shamsul Haq - relief and rehabilitation;
Maj Gen (retired) Mohabbat Jan Chowdhury - food;
Maj Gen (retired) M.A. Munim - agriculture;
Maj Gen (retired) Mahmudul Hasan - (? home);
Air Vice Marshal (retired) K.M. Aminul Islam - works;
Shah Moazzam Hussain - local government rural development and cooperatives;
M.A. Sattar - labor and manpower;
Anisul Islam Mahmuc - irrigation, water development and flood control;
Sirajul Hussain Khan - fisheries and livestock;
Barrister Rabiya Bhuiya - social welfare and women affairs;
Anwar Hussain - energy and mineral resources
Humayun Rashid Chowdhury - foreign affairs;
Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury - health and family planning;
A.K.M. Moyeedul Islam - ports, shipping and inland water transportation;
Hashimuddin Ahmed - textiles;
Mirza Ruhul Amin - land administration and land reforms
Mominuddin Ahmed - education;
Alhaj Maulana M.A. Mannan - religious affairs;
Shafiqul Ghani - civil aviation and tourism;
Sunil Kumar Gupta - youth and sports;
Anwar Zahid - information.

The president also appointed six state ministers and three deputy ministers. The state ministers and their portfolios are:

Zafar Imam - jute;
Misbahuddin Ahmed Bablu - industries;
Sheikh Shahidul Islam - youth and sports;
Mohammad Muzaffar Hussain - agriculture;
M.A. Mattar - commerce;
Binod Kumar [illegible]wan - local government rural development and cooperatives.
The deputy ministers and their portfolios are:

Zeyauddin Ahmed Bablu - education;
Begun Mamta Wahab - health and family planning;
A.S.M. Fakhrul Islam Munshi - ports, shipping, and inland water transportation.

Four presidential advisers also retain their positions with status and privileges of ministers. The advisers are:

Sakir Khan Chowdhury - freedom fighters affairs;
M. Syeduzzaman - finance;
Air Vice Marshal (retired) A.K. Khandokar - planning;
and Mahbubur Rahman.

The swearing - in ceremony was attended among others by the deputy chief martial law administrators and high civil and military officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

ISI Carries Cabinet List Following Reshuffle

BK230939 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0834 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Excerpt] In a major reshuffle of the union Council of Ministers on October 22, seven new ministers were inducted and five dropped. [passage omitted] The portfolios of several ministers were also changed.

The following is the list of the Council of Ministers after the reshuffle;

Cabinet ministers

1. Mr Rajiv Gandhi: **Prime minister and all other ministries and departments not alloted**
2. P. V. Narasimha Rao: **Human resource development and health and family welfare**
3. V. P. Singh: **Finance**
4. Buta Singh: **Home affairs**
5. P. Shiv Shankar: **Commerce**
6. N. D. Tiwari: **External affairs**
7. J. Vengal Rao: **Industry**
8. G. S. Dhillon: **Agriculture and rural development**
9. Arjun Singh: **Communications**
10. Bhajan Lal: **Environment**
11. A. B. Ghani Khan Choudhury: **Programme implementation**
12. Mrs Mohsina Kidwai: **Urban development**
13. A. K. Sen: **Law and justice**
14. B. Shankaranand: **Water resources**
15. H. K. L. Bhagat: **Parliamentary affairs, food and civil supplies**
16. K. C. Pant: **Steel and mines**
17. Mufti Mohammad Syod: **Tourism**
18. Vasant Sathe: **Energy**

Ministers of state with independent charge:

1. P.A. Sangma: **Labour**
2. Dr Rajendra Kumari Bajpai: **Welfare**
3. R. N. Mirdha: **Textiles**
4. Ajit Panja: **Information and broadcasting**
5. Madhv Rao Scindia: **Railways**
6. Jagdish Tytler: **Civil aviation**
7. Rajesh Pilot: **Surface transport**
8. Brahm Dutt: **Petroleum and natural gas**

Ministers of state

1. Arun Singh: **Defence research and development**
2. B. K. Gadhvi: **Department of expenditure**
3. Dalbir Singh: **Urban development**
4. Eduardo Faleiro: **External affairs**
5. H. R. Bhardwaj: **Law and justice**
6. P. Chidambaram: **Personnel, public grievances pensions and home affairs**
7. Ghulam Nabi Azad: **Food and civil supplies**
8. K. R. Naravanan: **Science and technology, ocean development, atomic energy, electronics and space**
9. Natwar Singh: **External affairs**
10. Shivraj Patil: **Defence production and defence supplies**
11. Sukh Ram: **Planning**
12. Chintamani Panigraphi: **Home**
13. P. R. Das Munshi: **Commerce**
14. R. Prabhu: **Fertilizers in the Ministry of Agriculture**
15. M. M. Jacob: **Parliamentary affairs**
16. Santosh Mohan Dev: **Communications**
17. Janardhan Poojari: **Finance**
18. K. K. Tiwari: **Public enterprises**
19. Mrs Krishna Sahi: **Education and culture**
20. Mrs Margaret Alva: **Youth affairs, sports and child development**
21. Ramanand Yadav: **Rural development**
22. R. K. Jalchandra Singh: **Chemicals and petro chemicals**
23. M. Arunachalam: **Industrial development**
24. Mrs Ramdulari Sinha: **Mines**
25. Saroj Khanarde: **Health**
26. Mrs Shiela Dikshit: **Parliamentary affairs**
27. Mrs Sushila Rohatgi: **Power**
28. Yogendra Makwana: **Agriculture and cooperation**
29. Z. R. Ansari: **Environment and forests**

Deputy ministers

1. Biren Singh Engti: **Personnel and training**
2. Girdhar Gomango: **Welfare**
3. S. Krishna Kumar: **Textiles**

[passage omitted]

USSR's Katushev Meets With External Affairs Minister

BK231540 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1437 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] Mr K. F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations on Oct 23 met External Affairs Minister Mr N. D. Tiwari. Present on the Indian side were Shri K. Natwar Singh, MOS [minister of state] for external affairs, and Shri A. P. Venkateswaran, foreign secretary. Mr Katushev is visiting India at the invitation of the external affairs minister.

Fruitful discussions relating to Indo-Soviet cooperation in economic, technical, and commercial fields were held. Both sides emphasised the great importance they attach to the forthcoming visit of the general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Mr M. S. Gorbachev, to India and expressed their confidence that his visit would give a new impetus to Indo-Soviet relations. The meeting was held in an atmosphere of trust, warmth, and cordiality characteristic of relations between India and the USSR.

There were discussions on further Indo-Soviet cooperation in the steel, coal, power, and petroleum sectors.

Earlier Mr Katushev had visited Visakhapatnam on 21 Oct to visit the Visakhapatnam steel plant. On their return from Visakhapatnam, the delegation stopped in Bhubaneswar on 22 Oct for a few hours to visit Konarak.

Accompanying Mr Katushev to the meeting were Mr V. F. Mordvinov, a deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and the Soviet ambassador to India, Mr V. N. Rykov.

Delegation Holds Cooperation Talks

BK231616 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] India and the Soviet Union today held talks to identify power and coal mining projects for further cooperation. The energy minister, Mr Vasant Sathe, led the Indian side and the visiting chairman of the Soviet Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, Mr Katushev, the Soviet side. Expressing India's desire to take up more projects in the field of energy with the Soviet assistance, Mr Sathe spoke of a considerable scope for such projects in hydel [hydroelectric] and thermal generation. Both sides agreed that the composite (tehari) project of 2,400 megawatt capacity in Uttar Pradesh (?can be) taken up with the Soviet assistance. In the coal sector, Mr Sathe said a number of projects will be implemented with the Soviet cooperation.

The Soviet minister expressed the hope that cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector will be further strengthened to their mutual benefit.

Largest Naval Base To Be Set Up in Karwar

BK220901 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] The country's biggest naval base is to come up at Karwar in Karnataka. Spread over 3,200 hectares, it will cost about 350 crore rupees and is likely to be ready by 1995-96. The project will comprise a breakwater for the harbor and an airfield beside normal facilities. According to an official spokesman, an action plan has been prepared for resettlement of fishermen and other families in the area.

Paper Views Results of 'Optimistic' Weinberger Visit

BK230731 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English
16 Oct 86 p 9

[Editorial: "Fruitful Visit"]

[Text] Now that the first ever visit of U.S. Defence Secretary to India has ended on an optimistic note, U.S. and Indian aides who worked so diligently behind the scenes on the modalities of various agreements to be signed, should have the satisfaction of being successful in more ways than one. First, the visit and the deal agreed upon both signify a distinct shift in U.S. and Indian political attitudes. Imagine earlier regimes in India signing such a deal with the U.S. Government without incurring the wrath of the eastern bloc. Secondly, both the defence and technology transfer aspects from the U.S. have not raised many eyebrows or elicited any adverse reaction in Moscow, even if the new alignment quite obviously threatens to break Soviet domination in the sale of defence items to India. Not unexpectedly this point has been highlighted in most Western papers. Thirdly, the hawks in the U.S. who vehemently opposed the super-computer deal for fear of advanced U.S. computer technology falling into Soviet hands, have been put in their place. This in a way bears testimony to the importance the U.S. Government attaches to India's dominant role in this part of the world now and more so in the near future.

There may be two opinions about New Delhi agreeing to buy F-404 engines for our light combat jets, specially when the UK and French built engines have been reportedly favoured by Indian experts. Surely the Defence Ministry should justify how the purchase of the U.S. engines vis-a-vis their European rivals is in the national interest. Merely because the U.S. has agreed to the sale cannot vouch for the superiority of these engines. Not the same can be said about the sale of super-computers. India surely needs these machines not just for monsoon forecasting but for our key defence projects, including our missile and nuclear programmes. In view of threatening Pak postures, through its F-16 fleet and the likely nuclear device, India cannot remain complacent, and perforce its scientists have to keep pace with the latest technology to pursue projects that have both military and civilian possibilities. The super-computer is one such instrument that can keep our scientists well ahead of their Pakistani counterparts if it ever comes to the crunch.

Commentary on Pakistani 'Terrorist' Involvement

BK231507 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Commentary by political commentator S.C. Bhat]

[Text] Evidence is piling up of Pakistan's involvement with the training and arming of the terrorists in the Indian state of Punjab, just across the border from a province of the same name in Pakistan. Not a day passes without the Indian Border Security Force catching or killing in encounters people trying to enter this country across the land frontier after receiving training in terrorist activity in Pakistan. Sometime, the number of these men captured or killed runs into double figures. Islamabad has made feeble attempts to deny this involvement and sought to accuse India for spreading disinformation. But facts point to the contrary, as the men who have been captured on their return to India after being trained in Pakistan have given the locations of training camps and named the officers of the Pakistan Army who imparted them the knowhow of killing innocent people and spreading disaffection among the different communities in this country.

Lately, a transmitter is believed to be operating from close to the border between the two countries. The police in the Punjab State of India, where the wireless frequencies of this police force were jammed by the clandestine transmitter, have indicated the location of the transmitter to be a kilometer inside Pakistan. On three occasions, this transmitter has jammed or interfered with the police communication network. This adds a new dimension to the Pakistan involvement and makes the task of antiterrorism operations extremely difficult.

Officials of Pakistan have sought to dismiss the fact of their government's involvement in the training and arming of the

Punjab terrorists as imaginary rumors and fantasy, to quote the words used by spokesmen in Islamabad. As a matter of fact, plenty of evidence, including the names of the camps and details of arms supplied as well as the top general of the Pakistan Army masterminding the operations, have been made available in India from time to time. There are powerful elements in Pakistan who are thirsting for revenge for what they consider India's role in the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971 from Pakistan. Bangladesh was until then part and parcel of Paksitan, and if Bangladesh seceded from Islamabad, it was entirely due to what the Bengalis felt was the policy pursued by the rulers of Pakistan to exploit them and keep them under their thumb. India was burdened with the problem of looking after 10 million refugees who had run away to this country for safety from the reign of terror unleashed on the people of Bangladesh by the Pakistan rulers.

But all that is history, and Pakistan has for many years now had friendly relations with a sovereign Bangladesh. Why try to blame India for what is nothing but a consequence of their own colonial policy toward their eastern wing citizens? Not only blame, but also inculcate a spirit of revenge among the men who control the destiny of Pakistan.

On the other hand, India has shown nothing but friendly sentiments toward Paksitan. President Ziaul Haq has acknowledged on more than one occasion that Mr Rajiv Gandhi has made sincere efforts to normalize ties with Pakistan in pursuit of his good-neighborly policy. Unfortunately, the policy makers in Pakistan cannot resist the temptation of aggravating India's difficulties by (?stoking) the fire of terrorism in Punjab. They fail to realize that they can burn their own fingers in the process.

Only 40 years ago, Practically every single Sikh, like every single Hindu, had to leave their hearths and homes in a newly created Paksitan state. The Hindus and Sikhs who lived there, like those who lived in the Indian part of Punjab, had been and are even now bound by ties of blood and a common heritage. The Sikhs have so many holy places in Pakistan, including the birth place of the founder of their faith, Guru Nanek. Yet they migrated from Pakistan lock, stock, and barrel. Now suddenly the Pakistani rulers found that they have great love for the Sikh community of India. No body believes there has been change of heart, except the extremists who find the new found love of Islamabad for them a strategic weapon in their campaign of killing and destruction in India. But as a Pakistani writer recently pointed out, such people — the extremists — can be really dangerous for Pakistan itself, because they would have their eyes on the sacred places of the Sikhs in Pakistan, and they would not forget that Lahore was the capital of the independent Sikh state of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the 18th century.

On her part, India only wants to live in peace with its neighbors, of which Pakistan is the most important. But she would like Islamabad to lay off the extremists of Punjab and let India handle her own task.

Ziaul Haq, Junejo Express 'Grief' Over Plane Crash

BK240133 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0100 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Excerpts] A Pakistan International Airlines [PIA] Fokker aircraft crashed near Peshawar last night, killing 13 people, including 4 members of the crew, and injuring 27 others. The flight No PK672 was carrying 47 passengers, including 5 infants. The flight was scheduled to arrive in Peshawar from Lahore at 2025 [1525 GMT] last night. [passage omitted]

A Pakistan International Airlines spokesman said last night that the relief teams have been rushed to the site of the incident. The cause of the accident is still not known.

The North-West Frontier Province Chief Minister Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan reached the site of the incident and personally supervised the relief operations. He also visited hospitals and instructed officials to provide every possible medical assistance to the injured.

Later talking to newsmen, the chief minister said the aircraft crashed in an uninhabited area and there is no village around it. He appreciated the spirit of the people of the nearby villages who immediately reached the spot and helped in pulling the people out of the plane. The PIA chairman and the managing director have reached the site of the incident. The PIA spokesman told the Radio Pakistan's correspondent that most of the dead bodies have been released to the relatives and the airline has made special arrangements to send these bodies to places as desired by the relatives. The bodies of the four crewmen and of the two aircraft guards have been sent to their relatives in Rawalpindi.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Junejo have expressed profound grief and sorrow at the loss of priceless lives in the tragic plane crash. In their messages, they conveyed their sympathies to the bereaved families and prayed for the salvation of those killed in the accident.

Sind Chief Regrets Violence After Train Mishap

BK231535 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] Sind Chief Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah has expressed regret over the incidents of violence in the Landhi and Korangi areas following the tragic accident at Quaidabad railway crossing on 21 October. Talking to *Associated Press of Pakistan* in Karachi today, the chief minister said that the provincial government has already ordered a judicial inquiry into the incident, which will be conducted by a Sind high court judge, who will assess the causes of the accident. Necessary steps will be taken in light of his report. He appealed to the people to display patience and restraint and to maintain a fraternal atmosphere and cordiality.

SRI LANKA

Parliament Approves Extension of State of Emergency
BK241400 Colombo Domestic Service in English
1245 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Excerpt] A motion to extend the state of emergency discussed in Parliament today, — 112 members voted for the motion while the (?Kalawana) member, Mr (name indistict], voted against it. The MP from Matugama, Anil Moonesinghe, abstained. [passage omitted]

LANKA PUWATH Reports on Recent 'Terrorist' Actions
BK220905 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0845 GMT 22 Oct 86

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 22 (LANKA PUWATH) — Separatist terrorists threw four hand grenades at Sri Lankan Government troops on routine patrol in Kallady, Batticaloa District, eastern Sri Lanka yesterday, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH. One police constable was wounded due to the grenade attack. On the same day at Mahilawattuwan, Karadiyanaru, troops on patrol were attacked by terrorists who were hiding in the jungle. Police Constable T.N.A. Samaratne was killed by terrorist fire and another security forces person was wounded.

Meanwhile, of the 98 suspected separatist terrorists captured by Sri Lankan Government troops last Monday October 20th at Kalawanchikudy in the Batticaloa District, 70 have been released after interrogation, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH.

Of the remaining 28 terrorists, 12 have been identified as belonging to the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), 6 to Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), 6 to People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), 2 to Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, one to Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) and one other is yet to be identified.

Views 'Terrorist Activity' in East
BK231007 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0937 GMT 23 Oct 86

["OANA/Pool"] item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 23 [LANKA PUWATH) — Separatist terrorists operating in Sri Lanka's eastern province were involved in four incidents since Sunday. [19 October]

The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that at Pulukunava, Amparai District, eastern Sri Lanka, government troops on patrol from Mangalaoya had seen five men loitering outside an abandoned house. Three of them were captured while the other two escaped.

Immediately two mortar shells fell near the place of arrest. There were no casulties among troops and the patrol returned to Mangalaoya after capturing three more suspected terrorists from the area.

Troops also captured a number of suspected separatist terrorists in the Kallady area, Mamangan, in the Batticaloa District yesterday. It was announced that after interrogation they would be released if found innocent. A followup to this news will be conveyed as soon as details are known, a spokesman for the media centre told LANKA PUWATH.

In another incident, four armed separatist terrorists robbed over rs. 30,000 from Mohamed Basheer who is the canteen manager of the Valachenai Paper Corporation in Batticaloa yesterday.

Security forces on patrol at Vinayagapuram, also in the Batticaloa District captured 12 terrorists Sunday, October 19, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH today.

They are: Kandasamy Guansekeram, belonging to the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), Kanthi Rasenderam, Nagamany Virayagamoorthy, Punyamoorthy Vinayagamoorthy and Thurairajah Mohanarajah of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), Aiyadurai Subakaran, Ramalingam Kannadasan and Muthulingam Thavarajah of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), Thiyagarajah Vinayagamoorthy and Sellathamby Vijendran of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) and Nagarajah Subakaran and Sinnathurai Kulathungam of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

4 'Terrorists' Killed; Explosives Seized
BK231011 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0943 GMT 23 Oct 86

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 23 (LANKA PUWATH) — Sri Lankan Government troops on a combing out operation killed four separatist terrorists and recovered five cans of explosives, one exploder, a large quantity of ammunition, and terrorist literature at Adampan, Mannar District, in north west Sri Lanka yesterday, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon

LD241355 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] On the eve of Arba'in [40 days after the martyrdom of Imam Hoseyn at Karbala] of the holy Hoseyn, lord of the martyrs, Muslim compatriots, today, performed the Friday prayers ceremonies of politico-ideological sermons all over the country. The University of Tehran and its surrounding thoroughfares too were packed with various strata of the inhabitants of Tehran performing their Friday prayers led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During these ceremonies, which were also attended by combatants who had participated in the victorious Fath-1, the representative of the imam in the Supreme Defense Council stated:

At the moment, the battlefronts of war are in the best possible condition since the start of 6 years of war, and all the elements, including combat forces, logistical resources and facilities, and equipment needed for war — all things that go into the preparation and creation of favorable conditions for the achievement of total victory, exist in every respect. At the same time, the morale of the Zionist enemy's forces is very shaky and the Iraqi regime does not have the power to replace or replenish its potential and resources that it has been losing through the war. The reactionary regimes of the region who have provided full financial assistance to the regime of Saddam, have now also realized that their efforts have been in vain and that their support for the Iraqi regime is of no use.

The representative of the imam in the Supreme Defense Council added: World arrogance has also more or less reached the same conclusions in feeling that Saddam and the Iraqi Ba'th Party are not worth all the investment and support that they have received thus far.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani then, by referring to the results of the victorious operations of Fath-1 in the course of which combatants of Islam, with the assistance of Iraqi [Kurdish] combat forces, infiltrated 150 km deep into Iraqi territory inflicting very hard blows on the industrial and oil installations of Iraq in Kirkuk, stated: These operations have demonstrated that Iraq has no control whatsoever in the north of that country since if it had some control, it would have been able to at least cut off, via air and land, the withdrawal route of the combatants of Islam from the Fath-1 operational sector.

The representative of the imam, in the Supreme Defense Council, by referring to the extensive enthusiasm shown by people with regard to the dispatch of 500 combat battalions of fresh recruits to the battlefronts, remarked: In spite of problems brought about by 6 years of war, our nation is prepared to sincerely put up with all the difficulties and shortages until the end of war and final victory over the Zionist enemy.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the unstable state of Saddam's regime and to what the Turks [as heard] are saying about if this or that were to happen to Iraq, such and such a thing would happen to the north of Iraq and Kirkuk stated: We hope that Turkey would not make the same kinds of mistakes. Iraqi territory belongs to the Muslim people of Iraq and we will not allow the territorial integrity of that country to be violated and Turkey too, if it is a good neighbor of Iraq must act likewise.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in continuation to the second sermon, referred to the latest session of OPEC and by expressing regret that in this session some of the members wasted so much time and bargained so much in order to increase some of their oil production, and stated: These countries must understand that at present, the production of even one additional barrel will bring losses up to the same level for countries producing oil.

Mr Rafsanjani then referred to the bitter episode of the downing of the aircraft carrying Samora Machel, Mozambique's deceased president and considered it to be another act of terrorism and racism by imperialism. Condeming this episode he stated: If, today, the right kind of reaction is not shown toward attacks against passenger airliners, air security for passenger airliners will be severly endangered. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his first sermon of the Friday prayers in Tehran, talked comprehensively about the lofty characteristics of the holy Imam Hoseyn, may peace be upon him, and the 'Ashura episode and the great mission of the holy Zeynab [hoseyn's mother], may God's peace be upon her as the messenger of the epic-making and destiny-creating event of Karbala.

Musavi Addresses Iraqi Kurds in Sanandaj

LD231111 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Oct 23, IRNA — The movement of ulema of the Iraqi Kurdistan held its third general assembly here Wednesday.

The session was attended by the representative of Imam Khomeyni in Kordestan Province, representative of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, and a number of Iraqi Muslim mojahedin.

Representative of Imam Khomeyni Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi called on the Iraqi Kurds, ulema, and all Iraqi Muslims to unite their ranks and paralyze the Iraqi Ba'athist regime.

A member of the movement, Sheyikh Barzanji, addressing the assembly said that the struggle of the Iraqi Muslims to overthrow the Baghdad regime was part of the Islamic movement in other parts of the world including Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Palestine.

On activities of the movement he said that it worked to further consolidate ties between the Iraqi ulema and the Muslims. A Friday prayer leader of the Iraqi Kurdistan speaking in the session condemned Iraqi regime's bombardment of Kurdish populated villages and massacre of the Kurds. He stressed that the struggle of the Iraqi people will continue until overthrow of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime and creation of an Islamic government.

The assembly elected five Iraqi ulema as members of the high council of the movement for a period of one year.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Plane Downed 24 Oct

LD241018 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Oct. 24, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane was downed over Chenareh-Changur heights, in Kerend-Gharb area, western Iran, by the heavy anti-aircraft fire of the Islamic combatants of Iran, Friday morning.

The pilot of the plane who bailed out of the aircraft, was captured by the Muslim forces of Iran.

Second Iraqi Warplane Downed 24 Oct

LD241042 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Oct 24, IRNA — Another Iraqi warplane was downed by the anti-aircraft fire of Muslim forces in Sar Dasht area, western Iran, Friday morning. This brings to two the number of Iraqi warplanes downed Friday morning.

No report is yet available on the fate of the pilot of the second Iraqi warplane. The pilot of the first Iraqi aircraft downed in Kerend-Gharb area, was captured by the Muslim combatants of Iran.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

[redacted]

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 OCTOBER 1986

Britain's Decision To Break Relations With Syria

Syrian Response — A "responsible source" cited by Damascus television 24 October announced Syria's response to Britain's "unjustified" decision, stating that Syria has decided to close the British Embassy and British Council and to close Syrian airports, airspace, ports, and territorial waters to British aircraft and shipping. British Embassy and Council employees were given 1 week to leave the country and the statement also noted Syria's decision to suspend Syrian Arab Airline flights to London. A Damascus radio commentary the following day warned that the British Government will have to "pay the price of this hostile step which is based on premeditated lies, prevarications, and provocations." The radio accused Britain of joining a "U.S.-Israeli plot" to harm Syria and pressure it to change its "firm policy" against Israel and the United States. Recalling Britain's "black colonialist history" and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's friendship with Israel, the radio said it was not surprising that Thatcher's government joined Israeli and U.S. intelligence in a "vile plot" to create an atmosphere conducive to pressuring and blackmailing Syria and to launching some sort of "adventure" against it. The radio viewed Britain's accusations of Syrian involvement in the attempt to sabotage an Israeli airliner as "strange and astonishing," reaffirming Syria's condemnation of terrorism, which "serves Israel and not the Arabs." Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' subsequently held a news conference during which he "refuted all the points" mentioned in the British foreign secretary's 24 October statement to the British Parliament, according to Damascus television. Al-Shar' emphasized that British nationals in Syria will receive care and attention and he said Syria will continue its efforts to secure the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon. The U.S. decision to recall ambassador William Eagleton from Damascus was noted by Damascus radio, and an *Al-Ba'th* commentary cited by the radio stated that "the British decision against Syria and the swift U.S. and Israeli reactions to this decision have once again placed the Middle East on the edge of a volcano."

Israeli Comment — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir welcomed Britain's "very important and positive" decision in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem television, noting that Israel has always stressed the importance of taking steps against states that assist terrorists. The Israeli transportation minister announced that Israel is willing to place its air corridors at the disposal of British aircraft, Jerusalem radio noted. Meanwhile, *Hadashot* claimed that Israel passed secret information to Britain on Syria's direct responsibility for the attempt to sabotage the El Al plane, adding that this information was one of the factors which prompted Mrs Thatcher to cut relations with Syria. Citing senior Israeli political sources, *Hadashot* said the Israelis informed the British of a "detailed Syrian plan" to attack the airliner, adding that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad apparently had knowledge of the plot. In another development concerning Syria, *Davar* disclosed that Israel will seek clarification and explanations from France concerning a report that it intends to sell weapons to Syria worth 3 billion francs.

Other Reaction — Libya denounced the British decision in a Foreign Liaison Bureau statement broadcast by Tripoli television, and JANA reported that Libyan authorities have decided to boycott British aviation and close Libyan airspace to British aviation. The U.S. Administration's decision to withdraw the U.S. ambassador from Damascus "exposed the dimensions of the plot being hatched by imperialist circles against the Arab nation," JANA asserted. The Iranian Foreign Ministry condemned Britain's action in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio, stressing Iran's "decisive and all-round support" for Syria. An Algerian Foreign Ministry statement carried by Algiers radio likewise expressed "complete support" for Syria, maintaining that Britain's justifications are unconvincing and that the British action is part of an attempt to force Syria to give up its "eminent position" in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Lebanese prime minister denounced Britain's decision in remarks reported by Beirut radio, and the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio cited a statement by the Lebanese Communist Party leader calling on Lebanon to break relations with Britain. Jordanian officials were not observed to comment on the issue, but the Jordanian papers *Al-Dustur and Jordan Times both viewed the break in British*-Syrian relations with regret and expressed concern that Israel will use the situation as an opportunity for launching an attack on Syria. The *Jordan Times* also warned that the British-Syrian rupture threatens to disrupt any possibility of holding an international conference on the Middle East, as both countries are "indispensable" to any such conference. In a commentary reported by MENA, the Egyptian paper *Al-Ahram* stressed that the British measures against Syria should not be taken as pretexts to poison the entire climate of Arab-European relations, adding that the Arab nation as a whole should not be held responsible for immoral terrorist actions carried out by "one or two Arab regimes." Another Egyptian comment came from the deputy editor of *Rose Al-Yusuf* magazine, who told Cairo radio that there is "strong evidence" of Syrian involvement in terrorism, which is "most damaging" for the Arabs and the Palestinian issue. The Arab League secretary general expressed "deep regret" over the British decision in a statement broadcast by Damascus radio, contending that the UK Government may have "fallen into the trap of accusations concocted by Zionist organs." As for Palestinian reaction, Damascus radio cited statements by the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) and affiliated groups denouncing the British Government's decision. While Sanaa radio cited a statement by the PNC speaker denouncing Britain's measures against Syria, monitored PLO radios ignored the issue, focusing instead on the Amal-Palestinian clashes in Lebanon.

Lebanon

Violent clashes between Amal Movement and Palestinian gunmen in the Sidon area subsided after a cease-fire agreement late on 26 October, according to Beirut radio, which also reported fierce fighting between the two sides in the Al-Rashidiyah camp area, south of Tyre. Voice of Lebanon radio said that Amal was tightening its siege of Al-Rashidiyah, but noted Palestinian claims to have captured two villages east of Sidon from Amal. The radio said that at least 30 people were killed and 80 were wounded in the fighting.

An Amal statement carried by Beirut radio blamed the Palestinians for the outbreak of the fighting near Sidon, claiming that hundreds of "suspect pro-'Arafat" Palestinian gunmen from the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps launched a large-scale attack on Amal positions early 25 October. Amal counterattacked and forced the Palestinians to retreat, according to the statement, which noted that the PNSF has ordered its members to keep out of the battle. A PLO communique cited by Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio accused the "fascist Amal gangs" of attempting to attack the Al-Miyah wa Miyah camp at a time when the Palestinians were attempting to avoid further bloodshed.

Gulf Conflict

Kuwaiti SAM's Fired — Kuwait fired two antiaircraft missiles at an unidentified plane off Kubbar Island 25 October, the chief of staff told KUNA. He noted that although the object disappeared from radar screens, a hit was unconfirmed. A spokesman for the Iranian War Information Headquarters cited by Tehran radio accused Kuwait of "negligence" in failing to disclose the identity of the plane and reiterated Iran's condemnation of any territorial violations of the region's countries. He offered Iranian aid in locating the plane's wreckage.

Iran-Iraq Fighting — An Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA denied an Iranian report that an Iraqi Mirage was shot down 27 October. Following Iran's claim to have downed two Iraqi warplanes 24 October, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio acknowleged that a warplane crashed during air strikes on targets inside Iran that day.

During his Friday sermon Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that all conditions now favor an Iranian victory and warned Turkey that Iran would not allow the territorial integrity of Iraq to be violated following the fall of Saddam Husayn's regime, Tehran radio reported.

PLO-Jordan

Commenting on his visit to Amman over the weekend, Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan told the UAE paper *Al-Ittihad that he would hold contacts with Jordanian officials* and that the PLO firmly believes in the need to develop and strengthen relations with Jordan, WAKH reported. However, the Jordanian prime minister stated during a visit to Cairo that Al-Hasan was in Amman to attend the funeral of assassinated PLO official Mundhir Abu Ghazalah, stressing that Al-Hasan's visit has "no political significance," according to Amman radio. The PNC speaker and three PLO Executive Committee members also attended Abu Ghazalah's funeral 24 October, the *Jordan Times noted. In a related report, the Israeli paper 'Al Hamishmar* said that Egypt and Kuwait have persuaded Jordan to resume a dialogue with the PLO and to cool its relations with Syria.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak maintained that Israel now has a "commitment" to an international peace conference, stressing that if Israel breaches this, it will be reneging on the agreement concluded at the Alexandria talks, MENA reported. Mubarak said he believes that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is aware of this. The president also criticized Shamir's declared intention of expanding Israeli settlement activity, though he said Egypt would adopt a "wait and see" policy on the issue.

Israel

Jerusalem radio reported that Prime Minister Shamir's office turned down a request by Australian clergyman John Mcknight for an appointment to inquire about Mordekhay Vanunu, who disappeared after leaking Israeli nuclear secrets to a British newspaper. Mcknight said at a Jerusalem news conference that he has information that Vanunu is being held in Israel, the radio noted.

Maghreb

Algeria — President Chadli Bendjedid received Libyan Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud during a 1-day working visit, Algiers radio reported. In remarks cited by Tripoli radio, Jallud noted that his visit was aimed at advancing pan-Arab solidarity, especially unity between Libya and Algeria. France released 13 supporters of the opposition Algerian Democratic Movement who had been ordered deported and barred them from leaving their respective administrative districts, AFP reported.

Western Sahara — In a statement cited by Algiers radio, the Polisario responded to the pope's appeal by announcing a 24-hour unilateral cease-fire 27 October to stress "Saharan peaceful initiatives and good will."

Sudan

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the secretary general of the opposition Islamic National Front met to discuss unity, the economic crisis, and civil strife in the south, according to AFP. Meanwhile, SUNA reported that "massive demonstrations" were held in Port Sudan 25 October to call for improving living conditions and public services.

PDRY

During his 3-day visit to Ethiopia, YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid was received by WPE Secretary General Mengistu Haile Mariam for talks which focused on strengthening bilateral relations, Addis Ababa radio reported.

In a Lebanese magazine interview cited by MENA, former PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said that it is time to openly declare that he will return to Aden since it has become difficult to reach a political settlement.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

South Asia

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UK Decision Against Syria Termed 'Political Terrorism'

LD270624 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Kabul, October 26, BAKHTAR: A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

Britain, by launching groundless accusations against Syria, and its provocative decision to cut off diplomatic relations with that country, has evoked the indignation and hatred of Arabs. This decision of the Thatcher government, which according to political observers has been adopted on the pressure of the U.S. and Israel, is an example of anti-Arab policy of the Governments of Britian, Washington, and Israel.

It is an open secret that the strategy of the Reagan administration in collusion with Israel and Britain, is carried out particularly against those countries which have an independent anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist policy.

The People's Republic of Libya [words indistinct] and again been the victim of illegal aggressions of Washington, Britain, and Israel on chimerical pretexts. Britain, Israel, and Washington did not leave any doubt in their hostility against Arabs during their terroristic raid against Libya.

The people of the world are aware that the Reagan administration has hatched an aggression plan against Syria since long in the triangle alliance of Washington, Britain, and Israel. The world press has revealed that Washington wants to find a pretext for conducting an armed raid against Syria. It is because Syria is a country which follows an anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist independent policy. The imperialists want to conceal their anti-Syrian policy on the pretext of the so-called struggle against terrorism.

Syria is not the only country which has been called by the imperialists as a terrorist country. Nicaragua, Angola, Ethiopia, Kampuchea, Palestinians, Libya and all who have an anti-imperialistic policy are called by the imperialists as terrorists. On the contrary, Israeli Zionists, racists of South Africa, and the Ziaul Haq regime are according to the Governments of Britain, U.S., and their allies as the patrons of peace and independence. The imperialists have kept quiet regarding these international terrorists and terrorist actions of Washington against independent countries of the world. The recent decision of the British government is a political terrorism. This action has not only evoked the anger of Arab countries but it has also caused anger of the world public.

Security Forces Seize Rebel Ammunition

LD261847 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Four ringleaders of the Gulbuddin band, Mokhtar, Shah Mahmud, Khan Sayd, and Malik Mokhtar were crushed along with a number of their helpers as a result of heroic attacks by armed forces on their devilish nests in the vicinity of Hesarak and Khugiani Districts. Twenty-one of them were captured.

BAKHTAR reports that during operations carried out to cleanse regions from the existance of counterrevolutionaries, the country's security forces seized two mortars with 730 shells; a DShK with 100 shells; a ZK-1; two Chinese (?Greenov); 22 heavy machine guns; 12 surface-to-surface rockets; 2,000 recoilless gun shells; 100 rocket launcher shells; 15 detonators; 20 anti-vehicle mines; 5 boxes of explosives; 26 assorted American mines, and 5 medicine depots.

'Criminals' Set Fire to 2 Sacred Sites

LD270210 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] The savage counterrevolutionaries, who spare no crimes against the people of Afghanistan, have again resorted to another anti-Islamic action setting fire to two sacred places in Konar Province.

The BIA reports that these criminals attacked the shrine of (?Baba Chalgazi) and the communal mosque of Mia Saheb Baba in Sarkani District, Konar Province, and set fire to them using surface-to-surface missiles supplied to them by their imperialist masters.

It is not the first time that the counterrevolutionaries have resorted to such action. Thus far, these criminals have either destroyed or set fire to 255 mosques and 60 sacred places.

Gandhi Inaugurates 'Country's Biggest' Naval Base

BK241617 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today laid the foundation stone of the country's biggest naval base, named Seabird, at Karwar in Karnataka. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized the need for a strong Navy to protect the nation. He said the Indian Ocean should be made a zone of peace, which is most essential now. He said this issue was taken up by the United Nations about 1 and 1/2 decades ago, but it is yet to be implemented.

Mr Gandhi denounced the Gurkha National Front Liberation Movement and made it clear that under no circumstances any state will be divided. [sentence as heard] There is no scope for the extremists and for those who preach violence.

The prime minister said the naval base will usher in a new era of development in Karnataka, particularly north Kannad. The lieutenant governor of Goa, Dr Gopal Singh, and the chief minister, Mr Pratap Singh Rane, were also present. They handed over a small island called Anjidiv belonging to Goa to the naval base. [passage omitted]

V. P. Singh, USSR's Katushev Discuss Trade

BK250310 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] India will make all efforts to keep bilateral trade with the Soviet Union in balance. The finance minister, Mr V.P. Singh, said this at a meeting with the chairman of the Soviet Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, Mr K.F. Katushev, in New Delhi. Mr Singh directed that a meeting of the ministers of finance, industry, and commerce should identify items to be purchased by India from the Soviet Union. Mr Katushev expressed the desire for more joint ventures in public and private sectors.

10th Cooperation Meeting With Iraq Begins 24 Oct

JN241459 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] New Delhi, 24 Oct (INA) — The meetings of the 10th session of the joint Indian-Iraqi Ministerial Committee for Trade and Economic Cooperation began here today. The Iraqi delegation is led by Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad al-'Uraybi. The Indian side is led by Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Brahm Dutt.

At the beginning of the meeting, Al-'Uraybi expressed hope this session would help reinforce bilateral cooperation. He pointed out the two sides have all the requirements for serving the interests of the two friendly countries and peoples. He then referred to the Iranian aggression to which Iraq is being subjected and to Iraq's continuous response to all international, regional, and private calls to end the Iraqi-Iranian war through peaceful means. He also apprised the Indian side of the insistence of the Iranian regime on continuing aggression against Iraq — which possesses a great capability to defend its territories and safeguard its people and whose economy ensures the capability to confront and deter this aggression.

The Indian minister called on Nonaligned Movement countries to exert a more positive and effective role to force the Iranian regime to stop its aggression against Iraq and to resort to peace. He welcomed the friendly relations and bilateral cooperation which the Iraqi president reinforces to include all common fields and to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples. He lauded the role played by the said committee, the achievements it has made, and the achievements it will make in regard to finding new areas of cooperation in all fields.

Agreement Reached To Improve Trade

BK250933 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] India and Iraq have agreed to further improve their relations in the fields of trade, industry, and culture. The agreement was reached at the end of a meeting of the Indo-Iraqi joint commission in New Delhi today. The Iraqi oil minister, Mr Qasim Ahmad al-'Uraybi, led his country's delegation. The Indian side was led by the minister of state for petroleum and natural gas, Mr Brahm Dutt. Both the countries have identified a major new area of further cooperation in operation and management. The two countries also signed a protocol on cooperation in the field of tourism.

Session's Minutes Signed

JN251530 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] New Delhi, 25 Oct (INA) — The minutes of the 10th session of the joint Indian-Iraqi Ministerial Committee for Trade and Economic Cooperation were signed here today. Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad al-'Uraybi signed for Iraq while Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Brahm Dutt signed for India.

In a speech delivered at the signing ceremony, the Iraqi oil minister reiterated Iraq's desire for an honorable peace with Iran and for noninterference in the two countries' internal affairs in accordance with the principles contained in Saddam Husayn's recent letter to the Iranian rulers.

The Iraqi oil minister added that the signing of the minutes of the 10th session of the joint Indian-Iraqi Ministerial Committee for Trade and Economic Cooperation reflects the two countries' common objectives and their eagerness to enhance bilateral cooperation in all fields, including the economic and cultural fields.

In a statement to the INA correspondent, an official at the Iranian Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry expressed his country's desire to explore new areas of bilateral cooperation, paying tribute to Iraq's positive stand in this regard.

Delhi Reports Breakaway Akali Dal Leader Arrested

BK271248 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The leader of the breakaway Akali Dal, Mr Sukhjinder Singh, has been arrested in his village in Kapurthala District. A police spokesman told AIR *[All India Radio]* Chandigarh correspondent that the arrest has been made under the National Security Act for making inflammatory speeches.

Tamil Nadu Chief Views Colombo Proposals With Tamils

BK261310 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, held discussions with the leaders of Sri Lankan Tamil militant groups in Madras today on the latest Sri Lankan proposals to solve the ethnic issue. The state food minister, Mr S. Ramachandran, briefing newsmen after the meeting, said that leaders of various militant groups have assured that they will convey their views on the proposals on the 3d of next month when they again meet the chief minister. He said the representatives also sought clarifications on the Sri Lankan formulations.

The chief minister held talks with the five Tamil groups at the insistance of the union government. He was assisted by the legal adviser to the union Home Ministry, Mr S. Balakrishnan.

'Prohibitory Orders' Imposed in Karnataka

BK250906 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] In Karnataka, prohibitory orders have been promulgated for 1 week in (Nagalkote) town in Bijapur District following the death of two persons due to stab injuries in two separate incidents during the last 4 days. Armed police forces have been rushed to the city for patrolling in sensitive areas. The situation is now reported to be peaceful.

'Terrorists' Kill 7 in Ferozepore; 'Manhunt' Launched

BK260312 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] In Punjab, in a sudden spurt of violence last night, three terrorists shot dead seven persons and injured four others at Khuban village of Abohar tehsil [revenue district] in Ferozepore District. The Punjab minister of state for home, Captain Kamaljeet Singh, told our Chandigarh correspondent that the terrorists started indiscriminate firing with Sten guns at a busy market place in the village. They fled the scene after the incident. The victims included members of both the communities. The union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, is visiting Khuban today to make an on the spot study. The state chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, and the governor, Mr Siddharta Shankar Ray, are also proceeding to the village. Additional police force have already been sent to the spot and a massive manhunt has been launched to apprehend the culprits.

Mr Barnala reviewed the situation in Chandigarh last night in an emergency meeting with the officers concerned. The chief minister who was earlier in Delhi yesterday had a meeting with the prime minister and discussed the political situation in the state.

In another incident, two suspected terrorists looted 76,000 rupees from a Punjab and Sind Bank branch in Amritsar yesterday. However, another bank robbery attempt at Faridkot was foiled by the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] patrol party.

Killings Protested; Situation Controlled

BK261255 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Prohibitory orders have been imposed throughout the capital following violent incidents in the south Delhi suburb Govindpuri today. A violent mob raised roadblocks on a busy highway and stoned passing vehicles. They were protesting against the terrorist killings in Ferozepore District yesterday. According to a police spokesman, nine persons, including five policemen, were injured. Seven people have been arrested. He said the situation is under control. The police are keeping a vigil.

Strike Called by Political Parties

BK270957 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] In Punjab and Chandigarh, markets and shops are closed in a number of places in response to a bundh [strike] call. The call had been given by all major political parties including the ruling Akali Dal, Congress-I, the Bharatiya Janata Party, the CPI, CPI-M, and Janata besides a number of social organizations. No major incident has been reported from anywhere so far.

According to PTI some people were injured in stone throwing in Hos-phiarpur. Curfew has been imposed there as a preventive measure. Essential services like trains and buses are running as usual, as they have been exempted from the bundh. Banks and educational institutions are also functioning normally. The bundh has been called to protest against the gunning down of seven persons by terrorists in Khuban Village of Ferozepore District on Saturday [25 October].

Delhi Says 16 Pakistani 'Intruders' Killed

BK270903 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Sixteen intruders from Pakistan were killed by the Border Security Force [BSF] Rajasthan and Punjab in the last 2 days. According to a BSF spokesman, 9 of the 13 persons killed in Khem Karan area of Amritsar District were believed to be Pakistani nationals. Two others died in Anupgarh, and one in Sri Ganganagar District of Rajasthan.

Sikh Women Form Militant Group; To Fight Police Chief

BK250402 Hong Kong AFP in English 0346 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, Oct 24 (AFP) — Punjab's battle-hardened "bullet for bullet" Police Chief Julio Francis Ribeiro has a new enemy: A band of Sikh women have vowed to fight his relentless campaign against their militant "brothers."

"We have unanimously decided to jump into the battlefield of war being waged by Mr Ribeiro against our Sikh brothers," said a news release issued Friday by a newly-formed group called Mai Bhago Regiment. The group is named after a woman warrior in Sikh history and was formed at a secret meeting in Amritsar earlier this week, said the release delivered at newspaper offices by two Sikh women riding a motor-scooter.

The group expressed its determination to pose a "strong challenge" to Mr Ribeiro, who took charge of the Indian Government's fight against Sikh militants in May with a hard-line pledge to match Sikh militants "bullet for bullet." The group will be led by "General" Bhag Kaur, who will be assisted by "Lieutnant-General" Harsharan Kaur and "Major-General" Deep Kaur — all names of famous women warriors drawn from Sikh history. Kaur is a common name for Sikh women.

Mr Ribeiro, 56, known in India for his ruthless efficiency, is high on a well-publicised hit-list drawn up by Sikh militants fighting for the secession of Punjab and formation of a separate Sikh nation. He escaped a bid on his life on October 3.

The Punjab police under Mr Ribeiro have been charged with killing innocent Sikhs in stage-managed "encounters" on suspicion that they were militants. Police have recently received intelligence reports indicating that young Sikh women were joining militant groups. They have arrested two Sikh women suspected to be working as countries for militants and are seeking a third woman, identified as Pinky, for the murder of a rival militant leader here last month. Police have circulated a picture of Pinky handling a sub-machine gun.

Kabul Airspace Claim 'Rejected'; Afghan Attack Viewed

BK261531 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the Kabul administration's Thursday [23 October] protest that the Pakistan Air Force planes violated Afghan airspace in the Urgun area of Paktia Province on 12 October. It described the Kabul allegation as baseless.

Meanwhile, four Afghan aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace on Thursday and fired rockets at the (Sargastar) area in the northern Waziristan Agency, killing a resident of (Tochis) village. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and a strong protest was lodged with him over this unprovoked attack.

MUSLIM Urges National Reconciliation in Afghanistan

BK250710 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
15 Oct 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Kabul Versus the Mujahideen"]

[Text] Reiterating what he said in an interview to *The Muslim* last July, the head of the Kabul regime, Dr Najibullah has expressed his willingness to hold negotiations with the Mujahideen living outside Afghanistan with a view to forming a broad-based government of national reconciliation. This statement is an acceptance of the fact that the Soviet-propped Kabul regime has been unable to build a domestic base that could function independently of external support. It is also heartening that unlike the past, the Kabul regime is no longer levelling allegations that the Afghans who have been forced out of their country are all "bandits and counterrevolutionaries".

While this initiative of the Kabul regime, which obviously has Soviet backing, is heartening, what is unfortunate is the somewhat negative response of the Peshawar-based resistance leadership. In a Press conference, they have spurned this offer on the plea that "Islam and atheism would make strange bed fellows and free people would think twice before shaking hands which are stained with the blood of freedom fighters". That would be fine if it was a consistent, principled position. However, this stand of the Mujahideen leadership lacks conviction and credibility because they have been willing to "shake hands" with the United States whose track record vis-a-vis freedom fighters in the Muslim world is no better than the Soviet actions in Afghanistan. While the Kabul regime is propped up by Soviet tanks, the Mujahideen leaders who spoke in Peshawar the other day are also "wired" to Washington. And neither superpower is a better friend of the Muslims than the other.

We would hope that the Afghan resistance will also take positive note of the new flexibility and realism in the Kabul regime's positions. The fact of the matter is that both sides are unable to eliminate each other either politically or militarily. Both sides should work together for a grand national reconciliation in Afghanistan which is delinked from their respective mentors. Only such an accommodation will be lasting and genuine and in keeping with the interests of the people of Afghanistan as well as those in the region.

Editorial Urges End to Dependence on U.S. Arms

BK251250 Lahore JANG in Urdu 14 Oct 86 p 3

[Editorial: "India-U.S. Agreement"]

[Text] According to U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger, an agreement has been reached between the United States and India on supplying a super computer and fighter aircraft engines and transferring technology to India. American experts will now visit India to work out the safeguards.

India is the only country in the world where both the Soviet Union and the United States are trying to beat each other in supplying the latest weapons and technology. The fact is that India not only carried out a nuclear explosion but also succeeded in the preparatory stage of missile production. A site for missile testing has been selected in Orissa. Both the Soviet Union and the United States know that India is overwhelmingly engaged in arms production and more than 3 dozen of her ordnance factories are manufacturing modern weapons. The situation thus created has disrupted the balance of power in the subcontinent. Despite all this, Pakistan has never raised any objection to India's war preparations and arms purchases, while in view of bitter experiences of the past, it is justified in seeing danger from these war preparations.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, the major source of her arms acquisition is still the United States. Furthermore, the United States is not only unwilling to supply technology to Pakistan, U.S. quarters are always objecting to Pakistan's nuclear efforts to overcome its energy crisis. Pakistan has also been facing frequent U.S. threats of suspending military and economic assistance if it produces a nuclear weapon. In the case of India, there is no such restriction. Under the circumstances, the Pakistani Government should take the matter of national security and existence into consideration and review the dependence on the United States alone for arms purchases. Friendship or enmity in international relations never constitutes a permanent phenomenon. The big powers change their policies whenever they like for the sake of their global interests, using the small countries as scapegoats. It may be hoped that the government, in view of the Indo-U.S. defense agreement, will not display any indolence in fulfilling the requirements of national interests and ensuring the country's security and existence.

Khamene‘i on Benefits of Iranian Victory in War

LD270039 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 26, IRNA — President ‘Ali Khamene‘i said here Sunday that an Iranian victory in the Iraqi-imposed war would inspire hope in all oppressed nations, end the superpowers' presence in the region, and preserve its security.

An Iranian triumph over the Ba‘thist Iraqi troops would not only be to the benefit of Iran but to all nations, said the president.

Khamene‘i made the remarks in a speech to a group of paramilitary Basij forces here where he added that since the victory of the '79 Islamic Revolution the Iranian People have heroically safeguarded their divine (Islamic) religion.

The president said the triumph of the Islamic Revolution inspired hope in the hearts of all oppressed and Muslim peoples throughout the world.

God forbid it the world's oppressed nations lose hope in the Islamic Revolution, the religion would suffer a severe setback, Khamene‘i said, adding that the Iranian people now shoulder the heavy burden of defending Islam.

Reaction to UK Severance of Relations With Syria Viewed

Musavi Discusses ‘Conspiracy’

LD261133 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Excerpts] During today's Cabinet meeting, which dealt with domestic and international matters, Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh reported on his participation in the OPEC meeting. After outlining the attempts to create obstacles so as to render the meeting a failure, Aqazadeh said: Some members of the organization, those who have already dealt the most telling blows to OPEC, caused a fall in oil prices by resorting to dubious and irrational threats. [passage omitted]

At the conclusion of the meeting, Prime Minister Musavi spoke about Britain severing relations with Syria, saying: The U.S. and Israeli support for Britain's action is indicative of the conspiratorial nature of the action. As for the Government of the Islamic Republic, it declares its strong support for the fraternal country of Syria regarding this conspiracy and states that these actions will have no effect on the decision of the Syrian people and Government to resist Zionism.

Musavi then added: Both the United States and Britain must remember that such actions will not protect the security of the West and Zionism. As long as Israel continues to exist as a cancerous tumor in the Islamic Middle East, and as long as the global arrogance continues to defend Israel's unnatural existence, the resistance and struggles of Islamic nations will continue. Under such circumstances, the global arrogance will not see a favorable response from the Islamic nations.

Continuing his remarks, the prime minister said: The United States and Britain, as can be seen by their criminal acts throughout the world, are heading state terrorism. We did witness the unconditional support of Britain and Israel for the U.S. air raids on Libya. Musavi then emphasized: The claim to be combating terrorism by those countries that pursue and plan terrorist actions throughout the world is a ridiculous one, and it does not deceive anyone.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on ‘Western Plot’

LD261602 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 26, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced Iran's full support for Syria against pressure from the West, here Sunday.

Hoj. Rafsanjani made the statement in a meeting with Iran's ambassador to Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari.

Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani termed Britain's severence of relations a plot by Western countries to force progressive states to tow their line.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

LD261755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement in connection with Britain's accusations against Syria and on the severance of political ties between the two countries:

Reports on the accusations leveled by the ruling regime of the United Kingdom at the fraternal and friendly country of Syria and the announcement about the severance of political relations with that country have come at a time when Muslims, Islamic nations, and struggling countries of the region have been subjected to the most intensive aggression and inhuman terrorist attacks by world arrogance. It is noteworthy that these baseless accusations have been made by a country which not so long ago allowed its airports to be used by American bombers for launching terrorist attacks and for bombing residential districts of Libyan towns. Muslim people of the region, especially the Palestinian nation, have not yet forgotten the historical crime committed by the British government in issuing the Balfour statement in 1917 on Palestine's occupation in overt alliance and in collaboration with international Zionism.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran once again warns against Britain's recent provocations and conspiracies in cooperation with America and Zionism, aimed at dealing blows to the decisive struggle put up by the combative countries of the region. The Foreign Ministry wishes to announce that the colonialist government's false accusations which are intended to misrepresent the glorious struggle of the Muslim nations by accusing them of terrorism — while the most organized state terrorism is carried out by these governments [as heard] against the struggling nations in the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa — can neither reduce the disgraceful nature of their actions nor take away any of the importance and value of the steadfastness shown by the Muslim and freedom-seeking nations of the world.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning the British Government's action, wishes to announce its decisive and all-round support for the fraternal country of Syria in confronting this conspiracy and calls on all Islamic, struggling, and non-aligned countries to stand against such plots and to expose them.

Velayati Returns From Talks in Tripoli 26 Oct

LD260655 Tehran IRNA in English 0545 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 26 IRNA — The foreign affairs minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and the Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Mohsen Rafiqdust, returned here Sunday morning after talks with Libyan officials in Tripoli and attending the third joint session.

Velayati speaking to reporters upon arrival said that the visit was necessary to exchange views with Libyan officials on issues to be raised in the forthcoming Kuwait meeting of the Islamic Conference Organisation.

Referring to talks of President 'Ali Khamene'i with Libyan leader Muhammar al-Qadhdhafi in Harare non-aligned summit conference, Velayati said that talks had to be followed up at ministerial level. It was decided, he added, that a Libyan delegation will visit Iran in the next three weeks.

Velayati reiterated support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Libya.

Views Visit; Expresses Support for Libya

LD261109 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Minister Rafiqdust returned early this morning from a joint meeting with Libya.

In an interview with our correspondent upon his arrival in Tehran, Velayati, detailing his meetings and talks with Libyan officials, said: This was the third political-military meeting between the two countries during which we held discussions with Member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and Foreign Liaison Minister Kamil Hasan Mansur as well as a number of Libyan military officers about stands adopted by the two countries and joint cooperation.

Velayati further added: Given the extensive cooperation between Iran and Libya, we must be in constant touch with our Libyan brothers. Our visits are necessary to coordinate our cooperation on Middle East issues, Palestine, Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq war, international bodies, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference. In particular, it is necessary to exchange views about various issues due to be tabled at the Islamic Conference in Kuwait.

Noting the last session of the Nonaligned Movement held in Harare, Velayati said: At meetings between the leaders of Iran and Libya various agreements were reached on some Third World and Islamic global issues as well as the need to adopt joint policies. In this connection, it was necessary for the foreign ministers of the two countries to make plans, and this has been done. Within the next 3 weeks a Libyan delegation is to arrive in Tehran to pursue the discussions.

In conclusion, concerning the repeated threats by U.S. imperialism and the probability of a second aggression against Libyan territory, Velayati said: As we have common views with the fraternal country of Libya, in this respect too, we declare that we will be at the side of fraternal Libya under any condition.

LE MONDE: Montazeri Resigns as Khomenyi Successor

PM271426 Paris LE MONDE in French 25 Oct 86 pp 1,4

[Jean Gueyras article: "War of Succession Stepped Up in Iran"]

[Text] The slow but sure deterioration in Imam Khomeyni's health has revived the hidden struggle for the succession which began in Tehran in the summer. Ayatollah Montazeri, who was solemnly confirmed as the imam's heir by the assembly of experts last July, resigned from his post as official successor last week, thus bowing to a campaign orchestrated by the state "apparatchiks." The latter are stepping up their efforts to prevent a man they regard as outside the political clique which holds the bulk of the power in Tehran from being sworn in should the imam suddenly die, which some people expect to happen imminently.

Imam Khomeyni has not yet accepted his heir's resignation but there is no doubt that the prestige and credibility of the latter, already questioned by a large section of the clergy, have been seriously undermined.

It is not very likely that Ayatollah Montazeri will be able to reverse the situation one day. In Iran, more than anywhere else, the Tarpeian Rock is close to the capitol.

Paradoxically, the first blow to Ayatollah Montazeri came from one of his friends — Ayatollah Meshkini, chairman of the assembly of experts, which appointed him heir in July. Ayatollah Meshkini, whose son-in-law is the feared Intelligence Minister Hojjat ol- Eslam Reyshari, launched a campaign against Montazeri toward the end of the summer, stating that there was a large body of opinion in the country in favor of setting up a supervisory council of three or five clerics should the imam die.

Questioned on this subject by clerics in Qom, Ahmad Khomeyni, the imam's Machiavellian son, immediately hinted that his father was not in favor of Ayatollah Montazeri being appointed sole successor but instead tended to favor the collegial solution stipulated by the Constitution.

At the same time toward the end of September, Iranian radio censored some of Ayatollah Montazeri's political statements and the imam's office, headed by his son Ahmad, again issued fatwahs (religious opinions) — which for almost 1 year had been the prerogative of Ayatollah Montazeri in his capacity as official successor. The latter immediately expressed his annoyance by leaving his Qom residence and "sulking" in his native city of Najafabad.

In fact, the man who is really behind the struggle against Ayatollah Montazeri seems to be Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the omnipotent and ambitious parliamentary speaker, who is also the imam's representative on the higher defense council. Because he is too young to have any of the religious qualifications which could have catapulted him to the top of the Islamic regime after the imam's death, he had for some time advocated the supervisory council solution in which he could continue to play a decisive role in Iranian politics with the aid of other clerics hostile to Ayatollah Montazeri's reign.

Treachery

Moreover, Mr Rafsanjani is increasingly being seen as the Islamic regime's number two and the imam's de facto successor. He is playing an increasingly important role not only in the country's internal affairs, but also, and above all, in the running of the war which was until recently part of the imam's famous preserve. For instance, the Majlis speaker has just secured approval from the higher defense council of a new military strategy which postpones virtually indefinitely the "new, imminent, and definitive offensive" so often announced in Tehran. The hojjat ol-eslam is still in favor of general mobilization and an all-out war against the Ba'thist regime, but the new strategy he is advocating is aimed mainly at persuading Iraq's regional and international allies to end their support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. To this end Mr Rafsanjani recently stepped up his reassuring statements stating in particular that if Saddam Husayn stepped down Iran would not call into question Iraq's unity and integrity and would be prepared to negotiate with the new Baghdad regime "even if it was pro-American." He also stated that Iran was prepared to abandon all its past efforts to impose an Islamic regime on Iraq and stated that Tehran would guarantee the security and integrity of all the Gulf regimes, thus toning down the sacrosanct Islamic principle of exporting the revolution to the Gulf countries. Mr Rafsanjani's positions were immediately described as "defeatist" by Tehran's diehards, who accused him of "treachery." The strongest critic of the new military strategy was the Islamic Liberation Movement [MLI] which is responsible for the "Islamic Revolution's international brigades" in the revolutionary guards. The MLI is chaired by Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi, who is the brother of Ayatollah Montazeri's son-in-law.

Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi, who is a highly controversial figure, was sentenced to life imprisonment under the shah's regime in 1973 for strangling Ayatollah Shamsabadi, a cleric from Esfahan who was Montazeri's main opponent at the time. Some Tehran clerics say he has since been involved in several other acts of terrorism against Ayatollah Montazeri's real or suspected opponents.

Kidnapping of Syrian Diplomat

Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi, who, like most MLI leaders, had excellent relations with Libya, was the first to oppose Mr Rafsanjani's strategy, stating that it was a "sell-out of the Islamic Revolution," that it "abandoned the Islamic liberation movements to their fate," and "guaranteed victory for Syria," which according to him, has the job of implementing the Majlis speaker's new plan at an international level. It has now been established that it was Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi's supporters who kidnapped and beat up Mahmud Ayat, Syrian charge d'affaires in Tehran on 3 October "to teach him a lesson," and "teach him not to interfere in internal Iranian affairs." Mr Ayat was accused by his kidnappers of interfering in succession questions and plotting against Ayatollah Montazeri.

The arrest of Mr Ayat, who was only released as a result of Ahmad Khomeyni's prompt and powerful intervention, was the start of the decline of Ayatollah Montazeri and his friends. Just a few days after the Syrian diplomat's release, Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshari ordered Seyyed Hashemi's arrest. Tons of compromising documents including hundreds of forged papers and travel permits were seized from the MLI's offices. Mehdi Hashemi's brother was arrested the following day.

This time Ayatollah Montazeri himself seemed to be the target because Mehdi Hashemi is his son-in-law, his private secretary, and his righthand man. The imam's heir left his Najafabad retreat and hurried to (Jamaran) where he was received by Imam Khomeyni in the presence of President Khamene'i and his Prime Minister Mir Musavi. He strongly defended his aides and said he was the victim of a plot before submitting his resignation from his post as heir.

While stressing that he is opposed to the existence of a state within the state — which seems to show that he accepts the arguments of Ayatollah Montazeri's opponents — Imam Khomeyni gave Mr Khamene'i and Mr Mir Musavi the job of settling the matter amicably. However, he said that the decision to accept or reject Montazeri's resignation ultimately rests with the assembly of experts. Since then Hashemi's two brothers have been released on bail, but dozens of their supporters are still in prison and the MLI's offices are still closed.

Aside from being one of the many incidents in the long succession struggle, this serious internal crisis concerns the future of the MLI and methods of exporting the Islamic Revolution to Lebanon, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. In the past, Ayatollah Montazeri had made this his preserve. The Foreign Ministry has constantly called for the MLI to be placed under its supervision. The same is true of the Intelligence Ministry which thinks its job is to monitor the export of the revolution. Who will control the MLI in the future? The answer to this question will largely determine the Islamic Republic's behavior on the international stage.

Oil Minister Interviewed on OPEC Meeting

LD232358 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Interview with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh by unidentified correspondent "at the close of the OPEC session", date, place not given — recorded]

[Text] Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, who attended the 73d OPEC oil minister's conference in Geneva, returned to Tehran this morning. At this conference, the Islamic Republic of

Iran's proposal for a planned production reduction, which was approved at the previous OPEC meeting, was renewed for November and December with some minor changes in the share for some countries and raising OPEC's production ceiling by 200,000 barrels per day.

This was the longest conference — 16 days — since OPEC was founded. At the close of the OPEC session, Oil Minister Aqazadeh was interviewed by a correspondent of the Central News Unit.

[Correspondent] Minister, the long sessions of the OPEC oil ministers in Geneva have now come to an end. Could you please tell us how you assess the results of this session and their impact on the oil market?

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. First, I must provide you with a brief description of the market situation. We are on the threshold of winter and normally this time every year the demand for oil goes up by 2 to 3 million barrels per day. The most important of our efforts in this session was that —taking into consideration that in the past a great deal of oil has been put on the world market — we should not meet the new demand calling for more oil for the winter, but rather use oil already on the market. So we succeeded in reaching an agreement on the limit of 15 million barrels per day for the 12 countries. This will be a very effective step in regard to the gradual trend in prices during the winter. This gradual trend differs from what was taking place during the past session in that we were then experiencing extreme plunges in oil prices. When the session reached agreement, this was immediately reflected in the prices and in a few days prices rose by several dollars per barrel. During the last session, the price of oil stood at $14 to $15 per barrel and we hope that during the winter the price will rise by several dollars per barrel. This increase will be gradual because under these circumstances the trend in price increases is gradual but is very constructive and effective from the standpoint of world economy. If prices rise above $18 per barrel before the next OPEC session, it would ease and smooth the steps that must follow. This would also enable us to realize our vision of what the real price of oil should be.

On the whole, compared with the last OPEC session, this session was better from various perspectives. In the past session, Iran was able to move the proceedings from an impasse onto a path toward finding a long-term policy, in spite of the fact that some countries tried to prevent the realization of the policy and later minimized the session's success.

We must thank God that at this session we were able to achieve another success in that we were almost able to eliminate conditions for another fall in prices. The most important point in this connection is that — taking note of the success we have had in two successive sessions — we have almost eliminated the basis for a reversal and fall in prices. It is for this reason that international assemblies and countries such as Norway made very speedy decisions on prices immediately following the OPEC session. For instance, Norway has declared that it will reduce its production by 10 percent. We thank the Norwegian Government for taking this step in order to cooperate with OPEC. Even consumers such as Japan have expressed their thanks at the success of the OPEC session since they, too, need to see that oil prices remain stable. Evidently, unstable oil prices will also be detrimental to them in the long run.

[Correspondent] So the establishment of an official price and a permanent quota were among the aims pursued by OPEC oil ministers. Could you please tell us what conclusions can be drawn from these points?

[Aqazadeh] At this session, we held many discussions on prices and on setting the benchmark price. It has been decided that until the next session, all expert members of OPEC should work on price structure, on the means of defending prices, and on price limits in order to find stable methods for establishing prices. They should present a clear proposal in this regard to the next session. We believe that this is a very important issue. It has been mentioned in OPEC's statement wherein fixed prices have been defended. We held positive talks in this connection and hope that in the next session we will be able to reach agreement on this matter.

[Correspondent] In this session, Iraq also received the cooperation of other OPEC member countries. What is the reason for this?

[Aqazadeh] On the whole, we had only two choices: We either had to accept the defeat of the conference, or we had to accept this illogical behavior or lack of cooperation on the part of Iraq as a short-term (?phase). The reason for this is that today we are under certain circumstances that necessitate OPEC achieving some stability. OPEC had to rescue itself from the instability and erratic situation that governed its affairs. In order to save OPEC we were forced to accept Iraq's position for another 2 months —that is, until the end of this year. Of course, it must be said that this time, not only us but most of the countries were extremely critical of Iraq's position. We think that in the next session, other countries will also oppose the exception of one country.

Of course, our official stance was recorded at this session. We declared that in the next session we will not accept any exceptions for any of the countries. However long the next session lasts, a final agreement must be reached on quotas, and all 13 countries must abide by this final agreement. In this particular session it was truly necessary for us to provide OPEC with permanent stability, even if we had to make an exception on Iraq for a month or two. Of course, just as you may already know, Iraq's production has decreased and the oil passing through the Saudi Arabian pipeline has been cut off until the end of this year. This amounts to 350,000 to 400,000 barrels. As for the rest of Iraq's capacity, and even if it could utilize all capacity, all in all Iraq cannot utilize more than 1.4 to 1.5 million barrels per day in output. This 1.4 to 1.5 million barrels will not have all that much of an effect on the market.

[Correspondent] The next session has already placed on its agenda the establishment of permanent quotas and methods for maintaining the price structure. Could you please tell us that your plan, and the plan of other OPEC members, is for reaching an agreement.

[Aqazadeh] I must say that OPEC decided that three of the members — the UAE, Nigeria, and Indonesia — should participate on the quota committee and should hold continuous meetings until the next session. They should then contact other member ministers. This committee also expects us to cooperate a great deal. We will also try to put forth great effort and be in contact with various countries until the next session. This follows from our experience between earlier sessions when we took trips to various countries and held contacts that proved very effective in arriving at agreement within OPEC. These things will be done so that before the next session begins, the grounds for reaching agreement over quotas will have already been laid. This is to forestall difficulties in the next session. We believe that these efforts will help us a great deal toward avoiding an impasse in the next session. We will all make joint efforts toward this end. Other efforts are also planned by members and talks have been held with them in this connection. We believe that the next session will be very important with regard to quotas and prices. I have already stated that in regard to prices, all the experts concerned will be preparing reports for the next session.

I must point to another matter. Today the Islamic Republic is enjoying very good prospects, and the majority of OPEC members these days are in harmony with Iran. They take the same stand as Iran and there is much sympathy and harmony between us and the majority of OPEC members.

USSR Delegation Departs; Draft Issued on Talks

LD261534 Tehran IRNA in English 1452 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 26, IRNA — A delegation of Soviet experts left here for Moscow Sunday after an 11-day visit. The delegation had reviewed mutual commercial issues with its Iranian counterparts.

Resumption of Iranian gas exports to the Soviet Union, cut-off since 1980 was discussed in detail. The two sides signed a draft on the issues discussed and agreed to hold future talks on the topics.

A delegation of Iranian experts is to visit Moscow in the second half of November 1986, to study the contents of the draft agreement with their Soviet counterparts.

Delegation Departs for Samora Machel Funeral

NC270554 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that a high-ranking delegation representing President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and consisting of Mostafa Mir Salim, chief adviser to the president, and Foreign Minsiter 'Ali Akbar Velayati, left for Maputo this morning to attend the funeral services for Samora Machel, the president of Mozambique. The same report states that the funeral of the late president, who was killed last week after a trip abroad in a suspicious plane crash in South Africa, will be held tomorrow, Tuesday 28 October, in the presence of heads of delegations from various parts of the world.

Spokesman on Downing of Aircraft by Kuwaiti Missiles

LD271023 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 27, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters spokesman here Monday accused the Kuwaiti Government of negligence in disclosing identity of a plane downed by Kuwaiti missiles Saturday night [25 October].

Condemning violation against territorial integrity of other states, he stressed that as repeatedly stated, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been interested in independence and territorial integrity of countries of the region.

Failure of international bodies in showing a proper reaction to repeated Iraqi aggressions against small states of the region including its Oct 16 attack on United Arab Emirates oil platform, has made the Iraqi ruler bolder, he added.

More on the downed plane, the spokesman announced readiness of the Iranian Government to send experts to Kuwait to help Kuwaitis to locate the wreckage of the plane.

Tehran Reports 'Successful' Kurdish Actions in Iraq

NC250648 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] A report from the Ramadan Headquarters, the center for commando operations involving the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, states that Muslim Kurdish Barzani Peshmerga have conducted a series of successful actions. They managed to gain control of and block the transit route within Iraq that links that country with Turkey, and they set fire to a number of trucks and tankers carrying goods and fuel. The same report also covers a second group of successful actions along the Dahuk-('Imadiyah) axis in northern Iraq. A military vehicle carrying 11 Iraqi soldiers was attacked and destroyed, and 1 of the Zionist enemies was captured by the Islamic forces. In other activity on the same axis, five Iraqi bases were struck by Muslim Peshmerga. A great many of those manning the facilities were killed in the process, and a good deal of booty was seized by the fighters of Islam.

Another report from the Ramadan Headquarters notes that Iraqi Kurdish Hizballah Peshmerga staged a series of victorious operations in the (Shirwan)-Mazin area of northern Iraq. The headquarters of an Iraqi Army company was attacked and occupied in the course of the 3-hour action. A large number of Zionist enemies were killed, and considerable quantities of light and heavy weapons were confiscated by the Hizballah Peshmerga.

Iraqis Launch 'Abortive Attack' on Kurdish Forces

LD261758 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 26, IRNA — A group of Iraqi Ba'thist commandos launched an abortive attack on positions of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan (PUK) forces in Haybat-Sulayman mountain and in (Chandin Awa) region on Oct 22 and 24.

The commandos were supported by tanks, personnel carriers, artillery fire, and helicopters, according to Ramadan Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC). They were however, forced to flee sustaining considerable losses.

First Lieutenant Qays 'Uthman Ayat, Commando Captain HusaynMahmoud, Sergeant Tha'ir Ahmad [names as received], as well as some other soldiers were identified among the killed.

The enemy forces lost three copters as well as a considerable amount of light and heavy military hardware in the unsuccessful operation, which was a retaliation for the victorious Fath-1 offensive launched on Kirkuk by Iran's Muslim combatants together with PUK forces on Oct 11.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Bombing Injures Bus Passengers

LD241118 Tehran IRNA in English 1101 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Oct 24, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane bombed Eslamabad-Bakhtaran road, western Iran, at 05:15 GMT Friday morning. Four passengers of a mini-bus crossing the road were injured by fragments of the Iraqi bomb.

Injured of the incident were rushed to hospitals in Bakhtaran and Eslamabad-Gharb. The mini-bus also sustained damage.

Communique Details Aircraft Downing

LD241745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] In its communique, issued tonight, the Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces announced:

During an air-raid carried out early this morning by the criminal Ba'thists of Iraq in the vicinity of Bakhtaran and Sardasht, two intruding Iraqi aircraft were subjected to the anti-aiircraft fire of the Islamic combatants. They were downed and the remains of one aircraft have been found near Kerend in Bakhtaran. The pilot of this aircraft was captured by our forces.

Yesterday, three merchant vessels and oil tankers were intercepted and inspected by sea-borne units of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Hormuz Strait's sea-zone, and continued their passage.

Yesterday, too, a patrol unit belonging to the 23d Division of Special Airborne Forces penetrated enemy positions and bases in the Hajj 'Umran operational zone and destroyed two bases of Iraqi forces, killing at least five of their personnel and capturing eight Saddamist mercenaries, a quantity of light weaponry and RPG-7 weapons, and various items of enemy communications equipment before returning to their bases.

In the Nahr 'Anbar operational zone, thanks to the fire of Islam's warriors, missions by Iraqi units to fortify positions, to support and to redeploy units were disrupted and halted. Around 10 enemy servicemen were killed. A sensitive observation mast of the enemy was spotted by our forces west of Jofeyr at 1240 yesterday. It was subjected to fire, killing enemy observers and destroying the observation mast.

The Gendarmerie warriors, along the areas under their protection, while defending their defensive positions and returning fire on enemy positions and fortifications set ablaze a number of Iraqi light and heavy weaponry emplacements, destroying two of their vehicles, killing and injuring a number of Saddamist mercenaries.

According to the communique of the Joint Staff Command, during the past week Abadan and its environs were under sporadic enemy artillery and heavy arms fire which caused damage to private residences and city installations.

Communique No 2,635

LD251709 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 25, IRNA — At least twenty Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one enemy heavy vehicle and one munitions dump set ablaze in the southern fronts by Iranian artillery fire on Friday. Enemy engineering operations were also halted, said a military communique here Saturday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,635 said that Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Friday inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops and disrupting their engineering operations.

The exchange of artillery fire continued in the northwestern fronts on Friday as a result of which a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy bunkers destroyed. Enemy fire was also silenced, the communique said.

In the western fronts, the communique said, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and three enemy bunkers and one heavy vehicle destroyed by Iranian artillery fire on Friday.

The communique furthermore said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and some enemy vehicles destroyed when Iranian artillery fire hit an enemy vehicle column in Hajj 'Umran, northwestern fronts, Friday.

Iranian artillery fire prevented Iraqi forces from building breastwork and bunkers in Mehran on Friday, according to the communique.

Elsewhere, the communique said that Iranian Muslim combatants pounded an Iraqi vehicle column in Qasr-e Shirin, western fronts, Friday destroying several vehicles and killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers.

Two convoys of Iraqi patrols sustained heavy casualties and were forced to flee when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire in Sumar, western fronts, Friday, the communique said.

Communique No 2,636

LD261557 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 26, IRNA — At least 20 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one enemy command jeep destroyed in the southern fronts by Iranian artillery fire on Saturday, said a military communique here Sunday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,636 said that Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled enemy positions in southern and western fronts Saturday killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying one 50 mm machine-gun and several vehicles of theirs.

The military communique furthermore said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in Hajj 'Umran, Sardasht, Panjwin, and areas overlooking Marivan, northwestern fronts, by Iranian artillery fire on Saturday.

In the western fronts, the communique said, several gun emplacements and four observation posts of Iraqi forces were destroyed and enemy fire silenced in artillery duels with Iranian forces on Saturday. Iranian patrols also reconnoitered Iraqi armoured units in these fronts dealing blows on them.

Several Iraqi vehicle columns carrying personnel and ammunition in Mehran operational theater Saturday were hit by heavy Iranian artillery fire as a result of which they were either routed or were forced to change direction, the communique said.

Elsewhere, the communique said that an Iraqi infantry unit sustained heavy casualties and losses when it was subjected to Iranian artillery fire in Chazzabeh, southern fronts, on Saturday.

Movement of an Iraqi tank column as well as enemy engineering operations in Maymak and Hilaliyah operational theaters, southern fornts, were checked on Saturday.

Iraqi Aircraft Violate Airspace; 1 Downed

LD271016 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Oct 27, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane was shot down by the fire of Iranian anti-aircraft batteries in western Iran, Monday morning. A number of Iraqi fighter bombers violated airspace of western cities of Iran Monday morning but were forced to flee before carrying out their mission.

Commander of Bakhtaran surface-to-air defence unit, Colonel Ale Yassin [name as received], told IRNA that due to heavy anti-aircraft fire of the Iranian combatants, one of the intruding Iraqi warplanes was shot down. He said that the site of the crash of the Iraqi Mirage-2000 has not been identified yet, adding that search was underway to locate wreckage of the aircraft.

The pilot of the plane, Colonel Ale Yassin said, is most probably dead.

Two of the violating Iraqi aircraft broke the sound barrier over Eslamabad-Gharb while fleeing.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

[redacted]

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 OCTOBER 1986

Syria

The Break With Britain — Britain's "provocative" action against Syria was discussed at a Progressive National Front Central Command meeting chaired by President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus radio reported, noting that Al-Asad expressed confidence that the people are ready to offer "all the necessary sacrifices to defeat the imperialists." The radio also broadcast a Ba'th Party statement calling for "an extensive political and media campaign in Arab and world public opinion circles to condemn the British government's move." The statement claimed that the British government "planned the Israeli plane drama, which was arranged by British intelligence and the Mosad."

In further Arab reaction, the Saudi information minister disclosed that the Council of Ministers expressed "regret and concern" that Syria and Britain broke relations for reasons which are thus far "not clear" to Saudi Arabia, according to Riyadh radio. Noting that Syria has denied Britain's accusations, the Saudi cabinet said the two countries should have been able to resolve their differences through "the usual diplomatic means." The Jordanian prime minister also expressed "regret" over the issue in a statement to Amman's *Al-Ra'y*, asserting that the deterioration of British-Syrian relations will increase tension in the Mideast and diminish peace efforts.

Internal Situation — The Cairo-based "National Alliance Office for the Liberation of Syria" stated that the Syrian authorities recently began a new arrest campaign against "national forces," MENA reported. Those detained include a number of lawyers who attended an 18 October conference at which demands were made for freedom, democracy, and the release of detainees. MENA also cited a Paris magazine report that the Syrian authorities have arrested members of Nasirite groups.

Lebanon

Violent clashes between Amal and the Palestinians continued in the Al-Rashidiyah camp area, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. On the Sidon front, the Popular Liberation Army deployed buffer forces in several villages previously taken by the Palestinians, according to AFP.

Palestinians and Libya

An "informed" source in Tunis cited by KUNA disclosed that the PLO has accepted a Libyan proposal to hold a joint Arab defense council meeting to discuss Israel's nuclear weapons capability. Meanwhile, JANA reported that Fatah, the Revolutionary Council, sent a cable to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi offering the Libyan leader part of the wreckage of the Israeli plane downed near Sidon. Fatah, the Revolutionary Council, is associated with Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal.

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni authorized Intelligence Minister Mohammad Reyshahri to proceed with the investigation and prosecution of Mehdi Hashemi and other "counterrevolutionary and deviating individuals" involved in "spreading rumors and other false issues." Khomeyni's ruling was contained in an exchange of letters with Reyshahri, as broadcast by Tehran radio. The intelligence minister had asked Khomeyni to express his views on the investigation of charges against Mehdi Hashemi's group in view of the "adverse climate created by some remnants of this group."

A 25 October article by Paris *Le Monde* linked Mehdi Hashemi's arrest with the "war of succession" in Iran, stating that Mehdi Hashemi is a "righthand man" of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri. The latter responded to Hashemi's arrest by submitting his resignation from his post as Khomeyni's official successor, though Khomeyni has not yet accepted the resignation, *Le Monde* said. Mehdi Hashemi reportedly opposed the current strategy pursued by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and he was arrested after his supporters kidnapped and beat up the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tehran.

In the wake of the *Le Monde* story, Montazeri's office in Tehran denied that he has resigned, telling AFP that Montazeri is "still very much the appointed next leader."

PDRY

Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon received the PDRY transport minister who delivered a message from Presidium Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Djibouti radio reported. Before returning home, the minister and his delegation were also received by Somali President Challe Mohamed Said Barre, according to Mogadishu radio.

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6th Soviet Regiment Departs Konduz; Watanjar Attends

LD271848 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Excerpts] The sixth regiment of the limited contingent of the Soviet Union has left Konduz for its peace-loving country after completing its internationalist duty in assisting the people of Afghanistan to defend our independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty.

At a meeting held in Konduz, which was attended by hundreds of citizens of Konduz City including workers, peasants, ulema, religious leaders, elders, intellectuals, men and officers of the Armed Forces, and party and state officials, gratitude was expressed for the fraternal assistance of the friendly Soviet Union and the heroic services of the internationalist men and officers of that country who have even given their lives in helping the people of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

A BIA correspondent reports that Communications Minister Comrade Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau, then spoke on behalf of the party and state leadership of the DRA and the people of Afghanistan, expressing gratitude for the friendly and broad assistance of the friendly Soviet Union: The last of the six regiments of the limited contingent of the Soviet Union is leaving Konduz for its great and peace-loving country. The decision of the Soviet Government in this regard in agreement with the DRA Government was announced in Vladivostok by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade Gorbachev.

Comrade Watanjar said: The Soviet Union, the internationalist friend of our friendly and fraternal country, assisted us at a time when the question of the life or death of the April Revolution was at stake, and it helped the people of Afghanistan in defending their independence and freedom. The internationalist men and officers protected the people of Afghanistan from mercenary murderers and as a result of their internationalist epics, children are going to school, farmers are harvesting their crops, and the workers are at their machines. This epic will remain the most glittering symbol of Afghan-Soviet friendship for centuries. Great thanks to you, sons of the great land of the great Lenin!

Watanjar added: The hope of final victory is on our side. Our Armed Forces are ready to perform combat duties on their own. They are equipped not only with the most modern weapons but also with the most modern art of warfare. [passage omitted]

Then the honorary banner of the PDPA Central Committee, courage medals of the party Central Committee, and honorary badges of the DRA were distributed to the men and officers of the returning regiment of the limited contingent of the Soviet Union by Mohammad Aslam Watanjar and Mir Saheb Karwal. [passage omitted]

'Sources' Cited on Attack on Departing Soviet Troops

BK280856 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 28 (AFP) — Moslem guerrillas attacked a withdrawing Soviet air defence regiment near the northern Salang Pass last week killing up to 35 soldiers, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

Quoting reliable sources in Kabul, the diplomats said the mujahidin crippled the Soviet unit's lead and tail vehicles then fired on the trapped troops.

The diplomats said the unit had left Kabul as part of a partial Soviet withdrawal after a ceremony on October 19.

AFP Reports on Further Violence

BK281152 Hong Kong AFP in English 1147 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Oct 28 (AFP) — [Passage omitted] Some 8,000 troops left Afghanistan following an announcement by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on July 28. According to the diplomats, the withdrawal coincided with intermittent heavy machine gun fire and repeated explosions in Kabul, although the regime had taken strict security precautions including helicopter surveillance.

The diplomats also reported that 300 houses were destroyed in northern Shakar Dara just before the pullout which began on October 15.

The diplomats also reported heavy fighting in the eastern Paktia sector bordering Pakistan where the Afghan Army's deputy commander, Colonel Hashmatullah reportedly surrendered to the mujahidin along with an unspecified number of men in the Jaji area on October 19.

Rebels also destroyed three electric pylons on the Jalalabad-Kabul road affecting the power supply to the capital, they said.

Quoting travellers from Jalalabad, east of Kabul, the diplomats said the road to the capital was mostly under the control of the rebels who were extracting "taxes" from passing vehicles, while at some places the Soviet-Afghan troops also demanded "goodwill money".

Pakistan Envoy Summoned Over 24 Oct Bombing

LD271648 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The Pakistan Embassy charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry today at 1615. The following protest note was given to him by the director of the First Political Section:

On 24 October 1986, between 0700 to 0720, 38 missiles [as heard] were fired from Pakistan's soil on to the residential area of Barikowt, Konarha Province. As a result, four residents of the region were martyred, eight were wounded, and seven houses were destroyed.

The DRA Government condemns this savage and provocative action by the Pakistani military authorities and strongly protests to the Pakistani Government. It demands that the Pakistani authorities end such actions or responsibility for any consequences of such hostile actions will rest with the Pakistani Government.

Daily Cited on China's Involvement in 'Undeclared War'

LD280713 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Kabul, October 27, BAKHTAR — The direct involvement of war mercenaries, American and British advisors, reactionary states of the region, and other imperialist countries in the undeclared war against the DRA has been intensified, writes an article published in daily *Haqiqat-e Enqelab-e Sawr*. China is also directly involved in this undeclared war, adds the article.

Its military advisors, the article continues to say, have illegally entered the territory of the DRA. The latest fact indicates that six Chinese advisors along with American military advisors have been seen in Nazian District, Nangarhar Province. As a result of a successful mopping up operation carried out by the Armed Forces of the DRA, three of them were killed and one was captured by the security forces.

The Afghan people, the article points out, are well aware that after the victory of the April Revolution the reactionary and warmongering forces entered into an unholy alliance against the revolution. The hegemonist China joined the alliance as well. The United States sent large consignment of weapons to the Afghan counter-revolution. Parallel to it, China sent anti-tank and anti-air missiles. Washington instructed CIA to organise the undeclared war by setting up camps for the counter-revolutionaries and by carrying out subversive operations in Afghanistan. China delivered lethal weapons to the bandits. It set up camps in Chinese soil for giving military training to the hirelings of imperialism. Over 700 bandits are receiving commando training in these camps.

Washington, Beijing, and Islamabad have already agreed that the U.S. and China should step up their military and financial assistance to the counter-revolution. Following this triangular accord, about 2000 machine-guns, 1000 anti-tank missiles, and half a million bullets were put at the disposal of the Afghan counter-revolution.

Undoubtedly, such aggressive and provocative activities are hampering the solution of the situation around the DRA, remarks the article.

However, the hostile activities of the enemies are doomed to failure and they will benefit nothing but ignomity, writes the article in conclusion.

'Criminal Bands' 'Crushed' in Bagrami; Weapons Seized

LD271822 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] By their brave and timely attacks on the nests of criminal bands of Gulbuddin and Rabani in the (Lojon) Valley, in the District of Bagrami, our Armed Forces have prevented an anti-Islamic and criminal action against our toiling compatriots.

A number of members of these criminal bands were crushed and 100 surface-to-surface rockets, a recoilless gun, arms and ammunition made in imperialist countries and stored in this valley, were seized by the heroic Armed Forces during the successful operations.

India's President Congratulates Ershad on Election

BK270953 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, today congratulated General Ershad on his election as the president of Bangladesh. In a message, the president expressed the hope that cordial and friendly relations between the two countries would grow closer and stronger. Giani Zail Singh also wished General Ershad personal health and happiness.

AFP: Student 'Activists' Riot at Dhaka University

BK281413 Hong Kong AFP in English 1408 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 28 (AFP) — An opposition student activists went on the rampage in Dhaka University Tuesday setting fire to a van and seizing a number of vehicles, eyewitnesses said. The activists, believed to belong to the student wing of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, were demanding the release of two of their leaders jailed last December.

The students charged through the university campus setting fire to a garbage van and seizing 10 vehicles mostly belonging to the government or international agencies, eyewitnesses said. The witnesses said that riot police and fire engines moved onto the campus and extinguished the fire. They were unable, however, to secure the release of the vehicles although the drivers were allowed to leave unharmed, they added.

AFP Reports Habiganj College 'Clashes', Closure

BK260851 Hong Kong AFP in English 0838 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 26 (AFP) — At least 60 people, including 17 policemen, have been injured in clashes between pro-government and opposition student groups at a college in northeastern Bangladesh, press reports said Sunday.

The Bengali daily *Ittefaq* said the college in Habiganj District had been closed down indefinitely after the fighting erupted Saturday. The newspaper quoted police as saying that the clash began when supporters of a pro-government group stopped members of opposition groups from entering the campus. Both sides threw stones and Molotov cocktails until the authorities called the police, the daily said. Thirty people were seriously injured in the fighting and had been admitted to hospital, according to another report.

Claim of Military's Torture of Tribal Groups Denied

BK261431 Hong Kong AFP in English 1353 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 26 (AFP) — The government said here Sunday that Amnesty International's recent charges of torture and murder by the military against tribal groups in southeastern Bangladesh had been blown out of all proportion. "It is nothing but a one-sided version based on hearsay and tales," Government Spokesman Narun Nabi Chowdhury said of an October 8 report, issued by the London-based human rights group Amnesty International.

The report accused the military of killing or torturing hundreds of unarmed villagers in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of southeastern Bangladesh in the past 10 years. It said that a majority of the abuses had been committed during anti-insurgency operations in the remote region after attacks by Shanti Bahini rebels.

The 13,000 square-kilometre (5,200 square-mile) hilly and jungled region, bordering Burma and India's Tripura State, is inhabited by several thousand families belonging to different tribes. Elements formed Shanti Bahini (peace forward) in the early 1970's to press forward their demands for tribal autonomy and opposition to a government policy encouraging lowland people to settle in the fertile but sparsely populated area.

Mr Chowdhury denied any violation of human rights in the hill tracts and said that "violence and feuds" were natural among the tribes.

According to the Ammnesty report, the Shanti Bahini had opposed the government's policy through numerous attacks on troops and settlers over the years. It quoted eyewitness accounts alleging that human rights violations by government forces had escalated between February and May.

"We have no report of any such violation," Mr Chowdhury said. He claimed that most of the area was peaceful and only small areas along the north and northeastern borders of the hill tracts were affected by Shanti Bahini insurgent activities.

Mr Chowdhury dismissed Amnesty reports that unarmed tribals were tortured to compel them to move to "protected villages', which he said did not exist. He declined to give official statistics on the number of people killed in violence in the hill tracts but earlier official sources had indicated that about 6,000 people including insurgents, settlers, and security men had been killed in the past decade.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's government announced in April 1985 a general amnesty, for the armed tribal insurgents. About 3,000 armed Shanti Bahini activists had surrendered to the government since, officials claimed. No firm figure of the number of armed activists was available, but according to one estimate the insurgent strength varies from 2,000 to 3,000.

Natwar Singh, Envoy to Sri Lanka Brief Gandhi
BK271614 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, accompanied by India's high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, met the prime minister in New Delhi today. Mr Natwar Singh briefed Mr Rajiv Gandhi about the local developments with regard to India's good offices for a political settlement of the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka. Mr Dixit also apprised the prime minister about the latest developments in that country.

Soviet Delegation Visits, Offers Railway Assistance
BK280325 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] The Soviet Union has offered to associate itself with the modernization program of Indian railways. The visiting Soviet delegation held talks with the chairman of the Railway Board, Mr Prakash Narain, in New Delhi on possibilities of cooperation in the railway sector. The delegation is led by the deputy chairman of the State Planning Committee, Mr V.P. Lakhtin.

Minister Urges Expanded Cooperation With Hungary
BK271633 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The industry minister, Mr Vengal Rao, has called for practical measures to expand and diversify bilateral relations between India and Hungary. He was addressing the sixth session of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation in New Delhi today. He expressed the hope that there will be some Indo-Hungarian joint ventures in Hungary. The Hungarian delegation leader, Dr Istvan Hetenyi, outlined some important areas in which Hungary will welcome collaboration and joint ventures.

'Terrorists' Kill 3; Hoshiarpur Curfew Continues
BK280309 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead three persons and injured three others at a village, (Taramkot Bugga), near Batala, in Gurdaspur District early this morning. A police spokesman said the assailants started firing indiscriminately on people at a religious place. Senior police officials have rushed to the spot, and a massive manhunt is on to nab the terrorists. The Gurdaspur police chief says the three of the four terrorists involved in the incident have been identified; each of them carries a reward of 25,000 rupees on his head.

The curfew in Malout town of Faridkot District is being relaxed for 9 hours from 0800 this morning following improvement in the situation. District authorities say all government offices and educational institutions will remain open during the curfew relaxation period. However, indefinite curfew continues in Hoshi-arpur. The curfew was imposed following brickbatting by two rival groups during yesterday's bundh [strike]. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that the decision about relaxation of the curfew will be taken after reviewing the situation later in the day.

Delhi Reports Congress-I Leader Shot
BK280852 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Excerpt] In Punjab, six persons, including a Congress-I leader were gunned down by terrorists in two separate incidents today. Mr Sewa Singh, a senior vice president of the Gurdaspur District Congress-I committee, was shot dead by some unidentified persons outside his house in Gurdaspur this morning. The assailants who came on cycles later escaped.

Terrorists shot dead two persons in Nainawal village in Sangrur District this morning. [passage omitted]

Ziaul Haq Said Using 'Subterfuge' To Acquire U.S. Arms
BK271224 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English
20 Oct 86 p 9

[Editorial: "Same Old Story"]

[Text] Pakistani President Ziaul Haq has again cashed in on the Soviet-Afghan bogey to extract whatever further military support he can from the U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, during the latter's Islamabad visit. And from the way Weinberger expressed his fear about possible Soviet air attacks on Pak territory, it became quite clear that the top Reagan emissary was taken in by Zia's subterfuge. This is nothing surprising. Using the same old ploy, Zia made the Reagan Administration part with its most advanced F-16 aircraft, acquiring as many as 40 jets ostensibly to defend itself against Soviet-backed Afghan regime; interestingly, Zia fell for these planes only after the Israeli Air Force demonstrated how effective and deadly the F-16's could be when it razed to the ground Iraq's nuclear installation using these machines. Now the U.S. Government is once again in the process of equipping the Pakistan Air Force with Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft to "bolster, as Weinberger termed it, Pakistan's defences against Soviet and Afghan Government attacks on its northern border." [quotation marks as published]

If that be so, Islamabad's air machine should be pointing towards its northern border and not against India's. And the newly acquired F-16's have been positioned on bases with an eye on Indian targets rather than Afghan areas; so it is abundantly clear to what purpose the Pak Air Force would be utilising the AWACS planes: expressly against India. Surely, the Reagan Administration could not be so naive as not to see through Zia's game, specially in the context f the dubious record of previous Pakistani regimes. In 1965 and again in 1971 Islamabad used

U.S. military equipment against India in contravention of its agreement with Washington. What can prevent Zia now from going back on his word? Zia is sadly mistaken if he thinks that the acquisition of the most advanced aircraft and electronic systems would be enough to browbeat India into inaction so that he can with impunity continue his mischief in Kashmir and Punjab. So far New Delhi has shown restraint but if things go out of hand it might be compelled to warn Zia of the disastrous consequences of his devious game.

Libyan Envoy Conveys 'Confidential' Note to President

NC272208 Paris AFP in English 2159 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 27 (AFP) — An envoy from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi delivered a confidential message to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq Monday, official sources here said. The envoy, who flew in on an unannounced visit, held a series of talks with other Pakistani leaders including Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani, they said.

The visit follows a cooling of relations between the two Moslem states after reports in the local press implicated Libya in the hijack of a PAN AM jet at Karachi airport last month in which 22 people were killed.

Yaqub Khan Urges 'Pressure' To Ensure Soviet Pullout

BK271621 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that international pressure is of vital importance for compelling the Soviet Union to fix an appropriate time frame for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. He was talking to newsmen at the Islamabad Airport this morning before his departure for New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly debate on Afghanistan beginning on 4 November. The foreign minister said moral pressure is essential for the withdrawal of Soviet troops because this is the only major issue which remains to be settled at the indirect negotiations. Moral pressure of the international community is of vital importance for compelling the other side to resolve this problem politically.

The foreign minister said the Geneva indirect negotiations will resume in a few weeks. He expressed the hope that substantial progress will be made regarding the finalization of a time frame for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan.

The foreign minister said the violations of our borders and airspace by the other side have increased by more than three times this year and military operations against the Afghan mujahidin have been intensified. The operations have failed, but it seems certain people are still hopeful of a military solution to the Afghanistan problem. As for Pakistan, it has always maintained that a political settlement is the only solution for this problem. Referring to the Soviet announcement concerning the token withdrawal of the Soviet regiments from Afghanistan, the foreign minister expressed the hope that the Soviet forces will ultimately completely withdraw from that country.

Editorial Comments on U.S. 'Double Dealing'

BK261030 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 18 Oct 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Eschew Double-Dealing, Please"]

[Text] Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev have met. While the Afghanistan question is said to have been discussed, the statements of the two sides indicate that they did not give much importance to this problem to the benefit of the Soviet Union whose sole objective is to keep the Afghan tangle lingering for as long as possible and keep the Geneva indirect or direct negotiations going so that it may have enough time to firmly set its feet on Afghan soil. The United States, too, will probably not tolerate Afghanistan's talking about the enforcement of the Islamic system, as in Iran and Pakistan, after its liberation from Soviet occupation.

Let us look at U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's statement that the United States will not let Pakistan's defense weaken but rather will make it stronger to help safeguard its frontiers. In this connection, it can be said that Weinberger has already visited India, exchanged sweet words with Rajiv Gandhi, heard his complaints, given assurances about strengthening India's defense and supplying sophisticated military equipment, and then has come to Islamabad. Here too, he gave similar assurances that the United States will under no circumstances let Pakistan's defenses weaken and that it will supply sophisticated arms and appropriate systems to Pakistan for the defense of its borders. He also added that Pakistan's defense capability is stronger than before.

When Weinberger was asked about U.S. response in the event of an attack on Pakistan, he evaded the question by saying that it is only a presupposition. He certainly spoke of very strong relations between the United States and Pakistan, but he gave vague answers to most questions. This strengthens the doubt that our total dependence on the United States will be fruitful in the future. In this connection, our bitter past experiences cannot be completely forgotten.

Winberger has come to Pakistan after a visit to India where an anti-Pakistan propaganda campaign is raging in full force, even though the the Pakistani Foreign Ministry has categorically stated that Pakistan has neither the intention nor the resources to enter into an arms race with any country, including India. It further added that if there is any arms race, it is the race of only one country — India. Comparing the arms purchases of India and Pakistan, the spokesman said that while Pakistan has signed agreements for the purchase of 40 aircraft over the past 6 years, India has entered into agreements to purchase hundreds of aircraft and, of those, has already bought 300 to 400 planes. This brings the ratio of arms purchases to at least 1 to 10. Meanwhile, India has also concluded a big arms deal with the Soviet Union and has signed other agreements for acquiring submarines from West Germany and the latest military aircraft from Britain and France; Pakistan did not raise a rumpus over these Indian military preparations. It is our desire that India should also recognize this principle and stop spiteful propaganda against Pakistan. The United States, too, it is hoped, will see this side of the picture and will not be influenced by India's deceptive foreign strategy.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger said that President Reagan had once again raised the Afghanistan issue with Soviet leader Gorbachev in Iceland and said that the Afghan issue is a serious problem. Weinberger said the newspapers had failed to highlight the fact that the Afghan question had figured prominently during the summit conference. The question is why was the press reporting on U.S.-Soviet talks on disarmament and the Star Wars program so clearly vivid and unambiguous, while reports on their discussions on the Afghan question were almost nonexistent, suppressed, and ambiguous? This very symptom is visible in the U.S. attitude at the time of providing assistance to Pakistan. On one hand, loud claims are made regarding support and assistance to Pakistan, and on the other, sophisticated computers and military equipment are supplied to India to placate New Delhi in spite of Islamabad's protests. And then Islamabad is assured that India's becoming powerful will not cause harm to Pakistan! It will suffice to say here that this U.S. double dealing creates suspicions in the minds of its friends who want a categorical assurance as to whether the United States will assist them in time of need or, as usual, leave them only with its promises. The United States should eschew this double standard and become candid and forthright for its own benefit and for the benefit of its friends.

DAWN Comments on Indian Border Exercises; Relations

BK280739 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Oct 86 p 7

[Editorial: "Recurring Shadows on Indo-Pakistan Relations"]

[Text] Reports regarding the concentration of Indian troops on our western borders cannot but cause concern in this country. No matter whether the troops are there ostensibly for the purpose of exercises or any other reason, concern will be natural in the light of our vexed relations, especially the deterioration seen in them since the beginning of this year. The Indian Government has been accusing Pakistan of providing aid and assistance to Sikh terrorists, a charge Pakistan has consistently and vehemently denied. Despite repeated requests, India has never thought fit to provide concrete proof about such involvement. Yet the accusations continue, perhaps because the Indian Government, mired in its own difficulties, is seeking an external scapegoat for domestic compulsions. This is an old trick and an old game but a short-sighted one which only makes matters worse eventually. Another twist to this worsening situation has been added by the irresponsible stories suggesting that the person arrested recently for attempting to assassinate the Indian Prime Minister had received training in Pakistan. The insinuation in these reports was bad enough. It was made worse by the frenzied publicity given to it. This beggar-thy-neighbour policy is fraught with danger since tension serves the interests of neither India nor Pakistan but only exacerbates an already explosive regional situation. After fighting three wars and achieving nothing except a legacy of bitterness which has perpetuated the divisions of the past, the time has come to turn a new leaf and, even if expectations are to be kept low, work for a constructive and business-like relationship.

After Zia-Rajiv meeting in New Delhi last year the outlook for the future had begun to look promising. An ambitious programme of mutual visits, to be topped off by a visit to Islamabad by Mr Gandhi, had been drawn up. All that has fallen by the wayside as both countries (let us not at this stage go into the business of apportioning blame) have reverted to their normative standard of suspicion and acrimony. Is there a curse on our relations? Must every brief period of sunshine be followed by uncertain and stormy weather? It is incumbent on the leaders of both countries to rise above the temptation of sacrificing the long-term perspective to transitory political considerations. This is in their supreme mutual interests. As for the concentration of the Indian Army on our borders, if it is not wound down, or if it is unaccompanied by any explanation of what its purpose is, tension will inevitably be fuelled. As a matter of fact, both India and Pakistan should adopt some permanent confidence-building measures like giving advance notice of military exercises along each other's borders. If the Warsaw Pact and NATO, between whom the divide runs deeper, have been able to agree on such measures, why cannot Pakistan and India do the same?

NEPAL

Politician, Journalist Jailed for Antigovernment Poem

BK250830 Hong Kong AFP in English 0122 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Katmandu, Oct 25 (AFP) — A member of the Nepalese Parliament and a prominent newspaper editor were still in custody here after their arrests related to the publication of a poem critical of the country's style of government, an official source said.

Member of the Panchayat (Parliament) Rupchand Bista was arrested for having written a satirical poem critical of the style and functioning of Nepal's 25-year-old partyless system of government.

The Communications Ministry banned the influential vernacular newspaper *Bimarsha* that published the poem and on October 10 arrested its editor and publisher, Keshav Raj Pindali. Both men were still in the central jail here facing further legal action, the source said Friday.

In written statements, both men have argued that the poem, "Beware," was not written in opposition to the Nepalese Constitution and crown. Authorities have said the weekly newspaper contravened the Press and Publication Act by publishing material that was "anti-constitutional" and "objectionable."

Mr Bista told a special tribunal held here Thursday and Friday that he took sole responsibility for the poem which he said he wrote to be used as campaign material during general elections last May. He asked the tribunal to punish him as necessary but to pardon Mr Pindali and lift the permanent ban on the weekly newspaper.

Both men face a minimum of three years in prison and a fine of 3000 rupees if convicted under the State Offence Act, legal experts said.

SRI LANKA

Minister Says Sinhalese Youths Trained for Terrorism

BK261119 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Nearly 200 Sinhalese youths were being trained in terrorists camps in the north, according to National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali. The minister, quoting government intelligence reports on the current situation in the country, said these persons were staunch members of extremist political parties.

Mr Athulathmudali said that he had directed all authorities concerned to expedite investigations into persons held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and emergency regulations and submit reports through the attorney general to enable him to take early action.

Asked whether there were political prisoners in Sri Lanka, Mr Athulathmudali said that, although terrorists claimed that there were political prisoners, those persons had been taken into custody for various offences which came within the ambit of the law. He said all countries which follow democratic principles had assumed special powers to deal with situation like terrorism, and if not the whole democratic process would face extinction.

Security Forces, 'Terrorists' Observe 24-Hour Truce

BK271015 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0945 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Colombo, Oct 27 (LANKA PUWATH) — The guns remained silent in northern and eastern Sri Lanka today as both the country's security forces and separatist terrorists began observing a 24 hour truce today.

Troops relaxed and were entertained to a series of variety shows by leading local "show biz" personalities, while the people of terrorism-plagued northern and eastern Sri Lanka had smiling faces, as the terrorists lay aside their arms and allowed people to go about their normal business without let or hindrance.

'Terrorists' Violate Truce; Kill Sentry

BK281047 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1020 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Colombo, Oct 28 (LANKA PUWATH) — Separatist terrorists in Sri Lanka deliberately violated the truce and treated the Pope's appeal to observe yesterday as a day of truce with derision, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH today.

It states, "when His Holiness Pope John Paul II appealed to the nations of the world to observe a day of truce on 27-10-86 if and where necessary, the Sri Lankan Government immediately responded with an unconditional acceptance of the appeal of his holiness. The government also appealed that the terrorists would heed the appeal of the pope unconditionally. However, the terrorists responded by accepting the appeal but laying down the condition that the security forces be completely confined to barracks while they be free to act as they wished.

Yesterday the terrorists deliberately violated the truce and treated the Pope's appeal with derision. The first incident took place when the terrorists fired at a helicopter which was transporting radio and television artists who had gone to Jaffna not only to entertain the troops but on a peace mission for, they carried with them a large number of posters in Tamil and English calling for peace and amity.

The second incident took place at Thondamannar at about 1625 hours (local time) on 27-10-86 when Corporal D.W.W. Silva was returning from the security point back to the main camp after posting a new sentry at the appointed hour, thus changing guard.

Cpl Silva was unarmed at the time when he was shot and killed by terrorists, who had crept into the Thondamannar Hindu Temple thus once again desecrating the sanctity of the temple and breaking the truce.

Land Mine Explosion Kills 2 Policemen, Wounds 6

BK280911 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0852 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Colombo, Oct 28 (LANKA PUWATH) — Two policemen were killed and six other policemen were wounded when a separatist terrorist surface mine exploded at Arasaddi, Batticaloa town, eastern Sri Lanka today.

The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that the incident occurred at 0645 hours (local time) today when a squad of policemen were on a routine patrol.

Navy Patrol Captures 'Terrorists' 23 Oct

BK280645 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0640 GMT 28 Oct 86

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 28 (LANKA PUWATH) — A Sri Lanka Naval patrol captured seven terrorists speeding in a mechanismed vallam (boat) towards Gurunagar off Pallaitivu in northern Sri Lanka last Sunday, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH today.

Khomeyni Answers Reyshahri on Arrest of Hashemi

LD271938 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Following the arrest of Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi and some of his associates, Intelligence Minister Reyshahri, in a letter to the imam of the nation, requested his holiness to express his opinion regarding the adverse climate created in order to confuse minds and cause discord. His holiness has also been asked to express his views in connection with the serious investigation of this issue. The text of Mr Reyshahri's letter follows:

In his exalted name.

To Imam Khomeyni, great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Peace be upon you.

As you are aware, Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi and a number of his contacts have been arrested in accordance with a warrant issued by the judicial power and with the knowledge and approval of your excellency, and they are now being held by the Intelligence Ministry for investigation and interrogation. Some of the charges against them are:

1. murder before the revolution victory;
2. murder and abduction after the revolution victory;
3. cooperation with SAVAK; (this charge is only against Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi)
4. illegal possession of firearms and explosives;
5. possession of confidential government-related documents;
6. forging government-related documents; and
7. secret illegal activities.

In view of the adverse climate created by some remnants of this group in order to confuse and silence the people, your holiness is requested to express your views on the serious investigation of all charges against this group by the Intelligence Ministry.

[Signed] Intelligence Minister Mohammad Reyshahri, 26 October 1986

The reply given by the imam — may his lofty shadow increase — to the intelligence minister's letter, is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

To Your Excellency Intelligence Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri.

In view of the issues divulged or suspected so far, and in view of the rumors and various statements issued in different names by counterrevolutionary and deviating individuals affiliated with Mehdi Hashemi, not only is suspicion increased, but it produces clear proof that their line has deviated from the revolution and from Islam. Your excellency is dutybound to investigate all aspects of this matter with utmost care and fairness. You should also prosecute all the accused individuals who are regarded as the leaders of this group, and any other individuals who have been involved in spreading rumors and other false issues. Naturally, since this is an issue connected with the country's security and is against Islam and the revolution, only the Intelligince Ministry should investigate it. I must stress that all are equal before Islam's judgment and inasmuch as negligence toward offenders is a deadly sin, so violation of innocent people's rights is among the unforgiveable sins. You should realize that Almighty God is present and watching your deeds, and that justice is a kind of servitude which clears the names of some outstanding figures from accusations and neutralizes conspiracies of the misled. May peace be also upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 27 October 1986

AFP Told Montazeri 'Still' Khomenyi Successor

NC280923 Paris AFP in English 0914 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 28 (AFP) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's chosen successor as Iranian spiritual leader, Ayatollah 'Ali Montazeri, Tuesday denied rumours that he had resigned over allegations that his son-in-law had kidnapped a Syrian diplomat.

Mr Montazeri's office in Tehran told AFP he was "still very much the appointed next leader". His position had seemed shaky when reliable sources said that he had resigned on October 18 after defending his son-in-law Mahdi Hashemi, an official at the Iranian bureau for aid to Islamic liberation movements.

Mr Hashemi and others in Mr Montazeri's circle of friends had been accused of kidnapping the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tehran on October 3.

'Expert' Cited on UK 'Conspiracy' Against Syria

LD272009 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 27, IRNA — Syrians have welcomed the rupture of Britain's relations with Damascus with an air of indifference, thereby disproving British calculations that its Friday's move would put the Syrian Government in an embarassing position.

Britain on Oct 24 declared the Syrian ambassador to London 'persona non grata' for the country's alleged role in what is widely viewed as trumped-up terrorism charges. It subsequently broke its ties recalling its ambassador from Damascus. Meanwhile, a political expert has termed the summoning home of British and U.S. ambassadors more a political maneuver intended to evaluate Arab reactions and to overshadow major world issues.

The U.S. and Britain have long dictated to the reactionary Arab wing to accept the Zionist entity's existence, he said, adding that this new move is intended to isolate the steadfastness front states with a view to making it easy for appeasement minded Arab states to recognize the Zionist state.

The unfolding conspiracy against progressive Arab Syria, which is actively facing the Zionist enemy comes as no surprise, especially so after Reagan's dastardly air attack on another progressive state, Libya, in April earlier this year.

The silence as was expected of the Arab world towards this sensitive issue will actually make the ground more fertile for further imperialist-Zionist plots against Arabs and Muslims, the expert warned.

Failure of Arab states to take a stand against this conspiracy as was so evident in the unofficial statement of the Arab League head, which must be addressed in this framework.

Another move, which the expert described as "pouring salt on the wound" was the trip of neighboring Jordan's chief of staff to London on Saturday.

Commenting as to why France did not tow the Anglo-American line, the expert said, the real reason is that Western imperialism did not want it to. He noted it was part of their policy to keep France as a connecting bridge between the West and Syria.

The West intends by this policy to ultimatly pressure Syria into joining the reactionary camp and accept the Zionist regime as a reality, the expert said.

Citing the timing of the Anglo-American move against Syria, the expert regretted that the conspiracy follows the suspicious plane crash in which the prominent anti-apartheid fighter Mozambican President Samora Machel was killed.

At a time when all fingers were pointing to the Western backed racist regime of Pretoria as being responsible for Machel's death, the imperialist-Zionist media devoted all its energy to diverting attention from the issue by convicting Syria on the spurious charges in a move no doubt intended to pave the way for further media vilification of the Muslim nation.

The expert concluded that global arrogance is fearful of the awakening of Muslims and the intensification of their anti-imperialist struggles and is therefore vainly trying to impose an updated version of new colonialism.

Lebanese Group Requests Camps War Mediation

LD280023 Tehran IRNA in English 2228 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Beirut, Oct 27 IRNA — The Assembly of Lebanese Ulema Monday appealed to Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri for immediate Iranian mediation to end the camps war in Lebanon.

In the cable, the Lebanese Muslim ulema expressed deep concern over the clashes in Sidon and Tyre, and noted that the warring groups' fight is based on tribal motives. If the clashes continue, the cable added, the future of Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims, whether Shi'a or Sunni, will be in serious jeopardy. The assembly emphasized that committed Muslims in Lebanon will do all within their power to thwart plots aimed at sowing discord.

Ayatollah Montazeri had earlier this year dispatched mediators to the region which helped bring ceasefire in the camp fighting.

Soviet Envoy Meets Energy Official on Cooperation

LD280817 Tehran IRNA in English 0801 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 28, IRNA — The Soviet ambassador to Tehran, Vil Boldyrev, in a meeting with Deputy for Legal and International Affairs of Energy Ministry Adeli, here Monday discussed expansion of mutual relations.

Adeli stressed that the joint dam building projects over the border rivers of Aras and Atrak should be executed. The Soviet ambassador also emphasised that talks on the issue must be finalised.

In order to finalise talks and conclude an agreement for bilateral cooperation and establishment of joint facilities over the border rivers, Adeli and a team from the ministry will visit the Soviet Union in the near future.

Commerce Minister Heads Delegation to Finland

NC280831 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Commerce Minister Abedi-Ja'fari left Tehran this morning for Finland at the head of a commercial delegation. Before departing he spoke to our correspondent. We invite you to listen to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Ja'fari, what is the objective of your visit to Finland? Who makes up your delegation?

[Abedi-Ja'fari] In the name of God, the Almighty. Greetings to the imam, to the martyr-nurturing nation, and to the brave combatants of Islam. Our visit to Finland will last 5 days, God willing. Our major objective will be to consolidate relations between the two countries. As the delegation is composed of brothers from the export-import sector and from the political department of the Foreign Ministry, we will particularly seek to furnish part of our country's needs from Finland and to discuss the trade of some of our goods.

[Correspondent] What countries are given priority in trade and on what are your transactions based?

[Abedi-Ja'fari] In general, the Islamic Republic gives priority to Muslim countries over other countries. As for the nature of transactions, we prefer to trade with countries with a proportionate balance of trade with us excluding oil. Second are countries with a proportionate balance of trade with us including oil. Finland is in the second group. We sell oil to Finland and import its basic products such as the output of its forestry industry, paper, and wood. [end recording]

'Defector' Cited on Support for Iraqi Chemical Weapons

LD271919 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] London, Oct 27, IRNA — A defector from the Iraqi chemical warfare corps has verified the assistance given by European companies in Baghdad's manufacture of chemical weapons.

According to London's new *Independent* newspaper, details have been disclosed by an Iraqi informant that West European firms have not merely helped Baghdad build up chemical weapons capabilities but "European technicians, particularly from West Germany, are still working on site side-by-side with the Iraqi military" to produce lethal chemical weapons.

While many countries are convinced of the West's role in supplying raw materials, equipment, and technical expertise, the paper notes the virtual condoning by several Western embassies in Baghdad of "the flow of West German engineers to top security sites in Iraq known to be producing poison gas."

The Independent relates that there are three plants in Iraq, at Al-Qa‘im, Akashaht [as received], and Samarra‘ which manufacture deadly weapons responsible for killing and severely maiming of thousands of Iranians in regular attacks Iraqi forces have made in its war.

Quoting the defector's account, the daily says that when foreign journalists went to Baghdad in 1984 to investigate the manufacture of nerve gases, the Iraqis successfully "hoodwinked" the inquiry.

Communiques Detail Recent Combat Operations

No 2,637

LD271604 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 27, IRNA — Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected six cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Monday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,637 said that an undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and 10 enemy bunkers and three vehicles destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts Sunday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions on Sunday killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying two bases. Enemy fire was also silenced.

During artillery duels in the western fronts on Sunday major parts of Iraqi positions were set ablaze and a number of enemy vehicles carrying personnel and ammunition destroyed, the communique said.

Elsewhere, the communique said that Iraqi forces sustained casualties and losses during Iranian shelling Sunday of Iraq's petrochemical installations in the southern fronts.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts Sunday raging somewhat more heavier in Tala‘iyeh, Zeydi, and Kushk operational theaters. Enemy engineering operations including construction of a bridge were halted in Basra, according to the communique.

No 2,638

LD281602 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 28, IRNA — An undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and five enemy vehicles and several gun emplacements set ablaze in the western fronts by Iranian artillery fire on Monday, said a military communique here Tuesday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,638 said that Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the western and southern fronts Monday destroying at least 10 enemy gun emplacements and killing their crews.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, Iraqi forces incurred substantial casualties and losses in artillery duels with Iranian forces on Monday.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the fronts on Monday raging somewhat more heavily in Hajj ‘Umran, Qasr-e Shirin, and Faqqeh.

Convoys of Iranian patrols reconnoitered Iraqi positions throughout the fronts dealing heavy blows on enemy troops. The patrols returned safely to their bases.

Elsewhere, the communique said a convoy of about 45 Iraqi patrols sustained casualties and was forced to flee in Mehran operational theater on Monday by Iranian artillery fire.

Activities of Iraqi armoured and infantry units as well as enemy engineering operations were halted in operational theaters of Mehran, Meimak [spelling as received] and Helaleh on Monday, according to the communique.

The military communique furthermore said that Iranian tank fire on Iraqi armoured units in ‘Eyn Khvosh and Nahr ‘Anbar on Monday silenced enemy fire.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 OCTOBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian Gunboats Sunk — Iraqi warplanes attacked and sunk five Iranian gunboats heading for Iraq's territorial waters in the Gulf, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Iraq-Jordan Consultations — President Saddam Husayn stressed the "firmness" of the battlefront situation in talks with Jordan's King Husayn, Voice of the Masses reported.

Soviet Position — In a meeting at the request of Iran's envoy to Moscow, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnudze reiterated the USSR's position that the Iran-Iraq conflict should by settled by political means, TASS reported. Meanwhile, an official in Zahedan said that agents of the DRA secret police were probably responsible for the explosion that injured nine people outside the former headquarters of an Afghan opposition party, according to IRNA.

Iran

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi outlined Iran's success in confronting "wicked intentions and economic plots" aimed at undermining the Islamic Revolution and the country's independence, in a speech reported by Tehran radio. He stressed the government's policy to "resist" in the war as long as necessary and never to permit the establishment of an "armed peace."

In remarks cited by IRNA, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned of "plots of world imperialism" to sow discord between the Army and the people. He also expressed the hope that when the war is ended, Iran will receive its neighbors' confidence and the Army will become a source of regional security. In another development, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced it will cooperate with the security forces to enforce laws on military service, Tehran radio reported.

Lebanon

Syrian Interests Section — According to Foreign Ministry sources cited by Beirut radio, the Lebanese Embassy in London will handle Syrian interests in Britain.

Security Situation — Syrian forces and Hizballah exchanged prisoners in the western Al-Biqa' town of Mashgharah, according to Voice of Lebanon. AFP previously reported that Hizballah had kidnapped four Syrian soldiers in retaliation for the arrest of two Hizballah members.

Fighting in the Sidon and Tyre areas eased as Amal and the PNSF agreed to implement the cease-fire agreement, facilitating the task of the Popular Liberation Army buffer forces, Voice of Lebanon reported. In remarks cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio following a meeting of the Ministerial Committee, Prime Minister Rashid Karami noted that the committee discussed the security situation and approved the agreement to end the camp fighting.

Gulf Affairs

Security and defense issues head the GCC summit draft agenda prepared by the Ministerial Council meeting in Abu Dhabi, according to KUNA. Also high on the agenda are discussions on developments in the Iran-Iraq war and means to ensure the success of an Arab summit.

Libya

In an interview on Irish television cited by London's *Press Association*, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi reaffirmed his support for the IRA and pledged his backing to opposition candidate Charles Haughey. The Irish foreign minister condemned Col al-Qadhdhafi's "outrageous intrusion" into Irish affairs, Dublin radio reported.

Sudan

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi blamed "mischievous" political parties for instigating student protests against commodity shortages in Khartoum, SUNA reported.

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Najibullah Attends 'Martyred' Official's Funeral

LD281822 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najibullah today took part in the funeral and burial ceremony of martyred Comrade Mohammad 'Ali Samim, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee and secretary of the Provincial Party Committee of Herat Province who was martyred yesterday. Comrade Najibullah expressed his profound sorrow as well as that of the Politburo and the PDPA Central Committee.

Mohammad 'Ali Samim was martyred yesterday afternoon as he was carrying out his duty. He was traveling by car to a remote village in Golran District in Herat Province when a mine planted by the counterrevolutionaries exploded.

A BIA correspondent reports that martyred Mohammad 'Ali Samim was buried respectfully in the cemetery of the martyred of the revolutionary path which is located near the shrine of Khowaja 'Abdollah Ansari. The funeral and burial ceremony were attended by Comrades Lieutenant General Nazar Mohammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of defense; Major General Gholam Faruq Yaqubi, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of state security; Major General Joma Asak, acting head of the northwestern zone; members of the Executive Bureau; officials of the departments of the provincial and city party committees of Herat; citizens including ulema, clergymen, and members of the social organizations; party and government employees; officers and soldiers of the Armed Forces; and workers, peasants, students, revolutionary guards, tradesmen and guilds of Herat city and its environs.

The BIA correspondent adds that after the funeral prayer, the chairman of the Provincial Council, ulema, and clergy of Herat, spoke about the personality and work of martyred Comrade Mohammad 'Ali Samim. Deputy Secretary of the Herat Provincial Party Committee Gholam Faruq Rosta'i then recited the summary biography of martyred Comrade Samim. He told of Comrade Samim's 15-year devotion to his membership in the PDPA and his struggle in the service of the people, the homeland, and the revolution.

Comrade Najibullah then delivered a detailed and comprehensive speech. The full text of the speech will be published by the press.

Haji Abdol Habib, father of martyred Comrade Samim, then spoke and expressed his gratitude for Comrade Najibullah's speech and attendance. He also thanked the other comrades for attending the burial ceremony for his son and said: I am delighted to present a number of sons to the homeland who have devoted all of their energy to their people.

The ceremony ended after a prayer was read and flowers were laid on the tomb of martyred Comrade Samim.

According to another BIA report from Herat, Comrade Najibullah and his entourage then went to the house of martyred Comrade Mohammad 'Ali Samim where Comrade Najibullah expressed his profound condolences to the family.

Comrade Najibullah then took part in the extraordinary session of the Herat Provincial Party Committee Executive Bureau.

Security Forces Kill 'Band' Members in Badghis

LD281809 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Sherin, leader of the notorious band of Jami'at, who disrupted the peaceful life of our people in Badghis Province by engaging in murder and robbery for a long time, has been punished for his foul actions as a result of an operation by the security forces.

The BIA reports that as a result of the operation a number of these murderers were killed and some weapons and equipment were seized.

'Successful' Security Operation in Bagrami

LD281814 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] As a result of a heroic attack by the country's security forces on the satanical dens of the counterrevolutionaries in the Khak-e Jabbar subdistrict, Bagrami District, the satanical designs of these murderers of our people were foiled.

The BIA reports that during these successful operations a number of criminals belonging to the criminal bands of Gulbuddin and Rabani were punished for their shameful actions and 40 surface-to-surface missiles with 9 warheads and 4 launcher units, 3 recoilless guns with 18 shells, 1 medium-range mortar with 100 mines, 3 heavy U.S. and Chinese machine guns, 2 DShK's with 47 boxes of ammunition, 147 mortar bombs, and 4 antivehicle mines were seized by the security forces.

These weapons and equipment, which were manufactured in the arsenals of the reactionary and imperialist countries and which were placed at the disposal of the counterrevolutionary bands for murder and destruction by the ruling circles of these countries, indicate the disgraceful interference of international imperialism, headed by the Reagan administration, and international reaction in the internal affairs of our country.

Gandhi on Defense Requirements, Issues

BK281701 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] The prime minister has called for an integrated approach to the total defense requirements of the country. He stressed that Army, Navy, and the Air Force be viewed as one striking force, and there should be much better coordination. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing a joint conference of senior officers of three services in New Delhi today. It is for the first time that such a joint conference has been held.

Mr Gandhi expressed absolute faith in the Armed Forces and particularly congratulated the jawans [soldiers], sailors, and airmen, who, he said, formed the backbone of defense forces.

Reviewing the security environment, the prime minister said the presence of foreign navies in the Indian Ocean remained a source of worry. We cannot ignore any possible threat from this region while planning our defense. He regretted that Pakistan has not shown any serious interest in normalization of relations.

Mr Gandhi reiterated that India has positive information and evidence about the help Pakistan is giving in training terrorists. He said often terrorism is linked with trafficking drugs and narcotics flowing from Pakistan.

About Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said he is hopeful of an accord in the light of the latest proposals under discussion. He said this would pave the way for peace in the region.

Referring to the situation in Punjab, the prime minister that determined action by the state government and the police are yielding results. The terrorists are on the run. However, this is a time when greater vigil has to be exercised as the terrorists on the run need attention and may attempt something desparate.

On the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] movement in West Bengal, the prime minister said both the CPI-M and the GNLF are indulging in violence. The problems of the GNLF are largely developmental and psychological. An attempt should be made to bring them into the mainstream and not to alienate them.

The chief of the naval staff, Admiral R. H. Tahiliani, said earlier in his presentation that India's growth is linked to the growth of its maritime power. A strong Navy is one of its essential ingredients.

The chief of the Army staff, General K. Sunderji, outlined the steps being taken to modernize the Army and readjust the man-machine mix.

The chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshal D.A. Lafontaine, wanted improvement in training (?facilities) and rationalization of the Air Force cadre.

Nagaland Minister, Council of Ministers Resign

BK290916 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] The Nagaland chief minister, Mr S.C. Jamir, has resigned along with his Council of Ministers. The resignation was submitted to the governor, General K.V. Krishana Rao, this morning. It has been accepted and Mr Jamir has been asked to continue in office till alternative arrangements are made. The state Congress-I legislature party is holding a meeting to elect a new leader. Congress-I leaders, Mr A.K. Antony and Mr Rajesh Pilot, are also in Kohima as observers. The new ministry is expected to be sworn in later today soon after the election of the new leaders.

Emergency Meeting Views Situation in Punjab

BK281619 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] The chief minister [of Punjab], Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, today reviewed the law and order situation at an emergency meeting of senior civil and police officials in Chandigarh this afternoon. He ordered the security forces to carry out flag marches in Malout town in Faridkot, Abohar in Ferozepore, (?Khanna) in Ludhiana District and Gurdaspur.

Mr Barnala also called an all party meeting on Thursday to discuss the latest situation in the state. Representatives of the Akali Dal, Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress-I, CPI, and CPI-M have been invited.

The Amritsar District administration has ordered closure of all educational institutions, except schools in the district, for tomorrow and the day after as a precautionary measure. Police have also advised the general public to remain indoors after sunset.

Meanwhile in Hoshiarpur, curfew in the outskirts of the city, including the general bus stand and Probhat Chawk has been lifted but continues in the walled city. Curfew was imposed following brickbatting by two rival groups during the Punjab bundh [strike] yesterday. A 9 hour curfew relaxation was given in Malout town of Faridkot District today.

In the capital, the Political Affairs Committee of the union Cabinet met today and reviewed the general internal situation particularly the spurt in terrorist activities in Punjab. The meeting was presided over by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. They also discussed the effectiveness of various steps taken in recent months to curb terrorist activities.

The committee considered measures to step up vigilance against terrorist activities in Punjab.

Precautionary Curfew Imposed in Amritsar

BK290744 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] In Punjab, indefinite curfew has been imposed in Amritsar as a precautionary measure. An official spokesman told our

Chandigarh correspondent that the step has been taken in view of the bundh [strike] call given by some organizations in protest against the killings in Dharamkot Bagga village of Gurdaspur District. The curfew covers the whole of municipal corporation and industrial areas and Chheharta. Some areas of the Civil Lines have been left out. Curfew is already in force in Malout town of Faridkot District and Hoshiarpur city.

Curfew Lifted; 100 Sikhs Arrested

BK291643 Hong Kong AFP in English 1613 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, Oct 29 (AFP) — The police arrested nearly 100 Sikh militants in the northern State of Punjab Wednesday, two days before the second anniversary of the assassination of former Indian Premier Indira Gandhi, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) said.

The arrests came after the militants announced they would march on the Golden Temple here Friday to hold a prayer for the soul of Beant Singh, the slain assassin of Mrs Gandhi, PTI said.

Friday is being observed as a "Shahidi Divas" (Martyr's Day) by the militants and authorities fear it could lead to a major Hindu-Sikh confrontation in the Punjab, where Sikh militants are fighting for a separate Sikh nation.

Many of the Sikhs arrested in the raids were second-rung leaders of the hardline All India Sikh Students' Federation (AISSF) and the United Akali Dal, the news agency said.

The report came as authorities lifted a curfew clamped on this Sikh holy city after a strike called by Hindu radicals to protest recent Sikh violence flopped, the police said. The strike and a demonstration was called by the Shiv Sena (Shiva's Army) and the Brahmin Sabha (Organization) to protest the massacre of three Hindus Tuesday in nearby Gurdaspur District, despite official pleas not to increase tensions. The three were among nine people killed by Sikh militants Tuesday in Punjab where two towns — Hoshiarpur and Malout — are under curfew after Hindu-Sikh clashes.

On Wednesday five Sikhs shot and killed a Hindu in Cheema Bath village near Amritsar. They were chased by the police and engaged in a gunbattle, a police spokesman said, adding that no details were available.

Authorities also feared that a call for a massive Sikh gathering in the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine of Sikhdom, on Saturday could provoke trouble. The gathering, a Sarbat Khalsa or general congregation of Sikhs, coincides with the major Hindu Festival of Lights, called Diwali. Although a Sarbat Khalsa is supposed to unite all the faithful. there have been so many in recent years that they appear to have lost much of their attraction, observers said.

Sikh head priest Giani Kirpal Singh is also due to deliver the traditional message to Sikhs on the occasion of the Diwali from the Akal Takht in the Golden Temple, the highest temporal seat of Sikhdom.

A day of Sikh repentance for failing to prevent the desecration of the Golden Temple during the June 1984 Army assault on the shrine is also due to be held at the same time.

Police say they feared that the coincidence of all these functions with Diwali could lead to further eruptions of Hindu-Sikh violence.

Ziaul Haq Wants AWACS With Pakistani Crews

BK281651 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Speaking informally to newsmen after his address at the Hajj conference [in Islamabad], the president said Pakistan is interested in acquiring aircraft like the AWACS and its crew will be totally Pakistani. He described as baseless and misleading the press reports that the United States is willing to provide these aircraft on the condition that their crews be American. He said Pakistan is capable of operating this kind of system as it has demonstrated in the case of sophisticated aircraft of the F-16 type.

Pakistan has maintained rapport with the United States in acquiring this kind of capability. But, he said, it is wrong to say that the crews of this type of aircraft will be Americans. In view of the situation prevailing on the western borders of the country he said it is imperative to acquire safeguard capabilities. Pakistan has been facing the Afghanistan situation courageously and successfully for more than six years. It never considered, however, giving bases to any other country. He said there is no objection to accepting the services of foreign experts to train Pakistani crews to operate this kind of sophisticated system.

Syrian Issue, Libyan Envoy's Visit Viewed

BK291051 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Pakistan will closely study the British decision to sever diplomatic relations with Syria. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today. He said generally rupture of diplomatic relations is to be regretted, because it ends opportunities for discussions, dialogue, and understanding. In the present case, it undercuts Britain's considerable capacity for a positive and constructive role in favor of [the] Middle East.

He said the visit of the special Libyan envoy to Islamabad was a follow-up meeting that took place between President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Mr al-Qadhdhafi at Harare where the two leaders had considered the need for discussions to develop cooperation between the two countries in various fields. During the meeting, the news of the Pan Am hijacking was also circulated, which was condemned by the two presidents.

The spokesman categorically said that there was not a single Indian Sikh refugee in Pakistan. Pakistan, on more than one occasion, has asked the Indian Government to furnish particulars of Pakistanis claimed to have been shot on the other side of the border. But no reply has ever been received. Pakistan has also no particulars of any missing Pakistanis who were said to have been shot from time to time on the Indian side of the border.

5 Dead, 20 Injured in Peshawar Explosion

BK280812 Karachi Overses Service in Urdu
0800 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] An explosion occurred at (Maruf Jahangirpura) Market in Peshawar a short while ago. According to preliminary reports, 5 persons were killed and 20 injured. The injured have been admitted to a local hospital.

Further on Explosion

BK271625 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Six persons were killed and twenty injured, two of them seriously, in an explosion at (Maruf Jahangirpura) market in Peshawar today. Six of the injured were discharged from the hospital after primary medical assistance. Immediately after the explosion there was a fire which totally gutted six shops and badly damaged three. The fire was brought under control within half an hour. The bomb had been placed in a gutter near a shop.

The NWFP chief minister, Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan, visited (Lady Deeting) hospital and personally inspected the medical assistance provided to the injured. He directed the officials not to miss anything in the treatment of the injured. He said all the expenses of the treatment will be borne by the provincial government. Speaking to newsmen the chief minister said that the provincial government has already taken all possible steps to prevent sabotage activities. He said in the last 4 months the NWFP police have arrested a large number of antisocial elements who were trying to indulge in sabotage activities. The chief minister expressed grief and concern at the loss of lives.

Demonstration Held; Strike Called

BK290708 Hong Kong AFP in English 0703 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 29 (AFP) — Demonstrators protesting against a bomb blast in Peshawar which killed six people in a packed bazaar Tuesday went on a rampage in the town along the Afghan border later, police said here. A general strike was called for Wednesday.

At least six people, including three policemen, were hurt either by stones or when police charged with batons to break up the demonstration. A number of vehicles, traffic lights, and several state-run banks were damaged.

When prevented from marching to the governor's house to express their anger at "rising terrorism" in the Northwest Frontier Province, demonstrators — mostly students and shopkeepers — pelted stones on police who fired tear gas shells.

The marchers later held a protest rally in the city centre criticising the government's Afghan policy. The speakers, mostly of to the left-wing Awami National Party (ANP) led by the pro-Moscow Abdul Wali Khan, called on the government to solve the Afghan issue by holding direct negotiations with the Kabul regime. They chanted slogans demanding the repatriation of Afghan refugees. Bomb explosions have been frequent in the Northwest Frontier Province where some three million Afghan refugees are sheltered.

Police blame the acts on Afghan secret agents allegedly infiltrated into the country from across the border. In the past few weeks police have claimed to have foiled a number of "terrorist" plans and arrested dozens of armed Afghan agents. Police raids have recovered a number of unexploded bombs and explosive material.

Just before Tuesday's blast at the main Qissa Khawani Bazaar, police arrested three people who allegedly planned to blow up the home of a major Afghan rebel leader, Burhan Uddin Rabbani's house. One more person died in nearby Swat Tuesday while defusing a bomb lying in a field, police said.

4 Killed in Quetta Clash; Curfew Imposed

BK291602 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] A press note from Quetta says that curfew has been imposed in (Faryab road) police station areas including Quetta city, (Gawalmandi) industrial area and satellite town from 1800 this evening. People from these areas have been asked to keep indoors. This action has been taken to protect the life and property of the people and to maintain law and order.

The press note from Quetta says that four persons were killed and several badly injured in a clash between rival groups of transport workers this morning. In this clash fire arms were used. Baluchistan governor, retired General Mohammad Musa, and ministers of the provincial cabinet visited the hospital and cheered up the injured. They expressed their sympathy and grief to the bereaved families.

Police Fire at Student Riot in Lahore

BK290624 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] A press note issued by the Lahore (?District) administration has said that students of the Engineering University resorted to rioting at the university campus while protesting the hostel allotment policy yesterday. The press note said that the law enforcement agencies intervened to protect the employees and the building. Two policemen and one student were injured.

Later that night, nearly 400 students came out near the main gate of the university and threw stones and fired at the police there. They set a police vehicle on fire and engaged in fistfighting with the police. Some members of the law enforcment agencies were then forced to shoot as a result of which two students were injured and later died. The press note said that a judicial inquiry into the incident has been ordered.

Kabul's Protest of Shelling 'Baseless'

BK291538 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Pakistan has rejected a protest of the Kabul authorities made on Monday [27 October] which alleged that Pakistan shelled Barikowt area in Konarha Province on Friday [24 October].The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office today and told that an inquiry was held on this allegation and it was proved baseless.

SRI LANKA

Chinese Aircraft, Israeli Boats To Be Bought

BK290528 Hong Kong AFP in English 0524 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Colombo, Oct 29 (AFP) — Sri Lanka is to buy Chinese transport aircraft and Israeli fast patrol craft to bolster the fight against Tamil separatists, highly reliable sources said here Wednesday. The sources said that the government would buy at least three YB-12 Chinese turbo-prop troop-carrying and cargo planes.

"We are getting them fairly cheap — less than one million dollars each," the sources said.

These aircraft, which have a short take-off and landing capability, will be used mainly for carrying troops and are expected to be in Sri Lanka next year, the sources said. (In Beijing, well informed sources said that the Chinese listed the aircraft as the Y-12.) Colombo has been buying small arms and ammunition from China for several years, the sources noted.

The Navy is to buy eight Israeli super Dwora fast patrol boats to supplement six slower boats of the same class already operating in the northern waters separating Sri Lanka from India, the sources said. The authorities have opted for the Israeli boat in preference to one offered by South Korea because the Dwora purchased one year ago had already proved its worth against Tamil separatist boats fitted with powerful outboard engines, the sources said.

The super Dwora has a speed of 40 knots, seven knots faster than the vessels already with the Navy, the sources said.

These vessels are expected here next year and will be mainly deployed in the Palk Strait, a narrow strip of water between Sri Lanka and India, where separatists put across men and arms for their campaign in the north and east, the sources said.

Defence and security spending for 1987 is expected to be 10.6 billion rupees (424 million dollars) according to budget estimates which are to be presented by Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel next week.

Tamils Sever Trincomalee Telecommunications

BK291255 Hong Kong AFP in English 1203 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Colombo, Oct 29 (AFP) — Tamil separatists have blasted a telecommunications exchange and entirely severed links with Sri Lanka's north-eastern Trincomalee District, government officials said Wednesday.

The state Media Centre said that an armed group of separatists entered the Trincomalee exchange on Tuesday night, where up to thirty people were working. It said the separatists chased security guards and set off heavy explosives which damaged the building and possibly electronic equipment.

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in Colombo said that the entire eastern district was completely cut off and that the only links were those maintained by security forces.

A spokesman said the ministry was trying to get information about the people who were working at the exchange and the volume of damage. Another source said that about 20 to 30 people worked at the exchange at night compared with about 100 during the day.

'Terrorists' Explode Grenades in Jaffna

BK291309 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1258 GMT 29 Oct 86

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 29 (LANKA PUWATH) — Separatist terrorists this morning exploded a large number of hand grenades and bombs in Jaffna, northern Sri Lanka, to frighten the people, the Media Center in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH.

Terrorists also fired 15 rounds of mortars at the Jaffna Fort Security Forces camp. But none of the mortars fell inside the camp. They fired mortars from the direction of the Regal Theatre clock tower and the Jaffna Hospital premises. Troops returned fire and there were no casualties among troops. Terrorist casualties are not known.

Civilian Deaths, Damaged Temple Denied

BK281135 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] The Media Center in Colombo yesterday totally rejected some foreign newspaper reports which said that 19 civilians were killed near the (Tirukeshwaran) Temple in Mannar and that the temple itself was damaged by security forces. These reports quoted Colombo sources.

The Media Center release said that the center totally rejected the news as no security operations were conducted in that area and it is prepared to arrange for anybody to visit (Tirukeshwaran) temple and verify for himself whether it has been damaged by any operations of the security forces.

Iraqis Force Kuwaiti Plane Into Soviet Airspace

LD291652 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 29 IRNA — A plane carrying Kuwaiti envoy 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Atiqi on a Damascus-Tehran flight Wednesday was chased by Iraqi fighter planes in northwestern Iran and forced to land at a yet-unidentified spot in the Soviet Union.

The plane was flying from Damascus to Tehran via Turkey, carrying the Kuwaiti royal adviser, Mr al-'Atiqi, with an invitation for President 'Ali Khamene'i to attend the next summit meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The plane was trailed by Iraqi planes over northwestern Iran, forcing it to change route and enter southern Soviet airspace.

The plane did not re-enter Iranian airspace and there have not been any reports on its landing in the Soviet Union.

The Iraqi planes were repelled from the Iranian airspace by a number of Iranian fighter planes.

Iraqi planes have repeatedly threatened civilian flights near the Iranian border several times since the outbreak of the war. In 1981, the Algerian Foreign Minister Mr Ben Yahya and his entourage were killed when their plane was shot down by an Iraqi fighter plane near the Turkish border in western Iran.

Khamene'i Addresses Theology Students

LD290023 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] According to a report from the Central News Unit, simultaneous with the graduation ceremony for students of the first course of the Theology Teachers' Training University and the start of the new academic year for that university's freshmen, this morning, during a ceremony attended by President Khamene'i, the Theology Teachers' Training School became the Theology Teachers' Training University.

According to this report, the ceremony was also attended by Minister of Culture and Higher Education Farhadi; Chancellor of the Theology Teachers' Training University Habibi;, and students, lecturers, and staff of the university. The university chancellor gave a report on the activities of the university, which was followed by the speech by President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the university Khamene'i. In the speech, he described the grave responsibilities of the university in training lecturers and theology teachers for the country's universities and advanced schools.

Referring to the importance of the role of students and lecturers in creating a cultural transformation in society; the construction of the country in the various development, economic, scientific, and cultural fields; and the training and reform of the people, he stressed the necessity for expanding the Theology Teachers' Training University. He called for the mobilization of all scientific and cultural forces in the country, especially university lecturers, ulema, and scholars of seminaries for the advancement and expansion of the activities of the university in various fields.

President Khamene'i stressed that in addition to having an open atmosphere and being places for free discussions and gateways for learning worldly ideas, the country's universities can be a completely Islamic place, with piety, such as seminaries.

At the end of his speech, he referred to the situation on the fronts and the developments in the imposed war. He said that the war is progressing very favorably. On the fronts today we are superior in terms of military equipment, military know-how through commanders and those of high rank, military training for personnel, proper organization, and so forth. As far as scientific advancement and the manufacture of military equipment are concerned, we have made great advances. I bring glad tidings that this war will eventually end with the certain victory of Islam. With this victory we will all definitely attain important victories in political fields.

According to this report, after the ceremony in an interview with our correspondent, the chancellor of the university said with regard to the name change from the Theology Teachers' Training School to the Theology Teachers' Training University: This name change took place in accordance with the new articles of associations of the cultural revolution. In accordance with the new articles of association, the activities of the university will expand. From now on, in addition to its theology teachers' training course, the university will enroll courses and also researchers' training courses. The supply of researchers required by the country's research organizations will be left up to the university.

Regarding the university's educational activities, he said: At present, in addition to 90 students who will graduate today, 820 students are studying various courses in human science, medicine, technical and engineering courses, basic sciences, and agriculture. Beginning today, 220 freshmen will commence their studies.

He finally referred to the development projects of the university. He said that we are now in the process of opening a library with a capacity of 300,000 books as well as laboratories required by the university. Also, a 500-unit residence hall for students and the university's administrative and educational buildings are under construction. They will be completed by the end of 67 [20 March 1989].

Musavi Addresses Message to Nation

NC290642 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] In a televised message last night, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi discussed the government's recent progress in confronting the political-economic plots hatched by our enemies, while thanking the nation for its unflinching assistance in strengthening the government.

In his one hour message, the prime minister first referred to the completion of the census, which showed a population of more than 48 million, saying: These statistics demonstrate a spectacular growth in our population. This is very important in view of the weight that our system has in the region and in the world, for we have in our hands one of the most important weapons in the region: a pious population.

The prime minister then compared some of the results of the census with statistics from the years before the revolution, adding: According to the census, 62 percent of our population over the age of 6 is literate, while in 1355 [year ending 20 March 1977] we had only 47.5 percent literacy. Mr Musavi continued: The employment rate among our population over 6 years of age is 28 percent, this being 22 percent of our total population, while in 1355 it was only 20 percent. We can see, then, that despite the difficulties of the revolution, the imposed war, and our economy, these percentages have increased when compared to the past. The prime minister then said: Another fact revealed by the census is that about 11 million people have been born within the atmosphere of the revolution and have been reared under the slogans "God is great" and "Death to America."

Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi then went on to discuss the country's political-economic situation, saying: After the Val Fajr-8 operation, which shook the battlefields like an earthquake, the war of oil prices and the attacks on our installations began. These were intended to force us to come to terms. But now, despite our enemies wishes, our nation's resolution to multiply has grown and become more entrenched and the enemy's plot is defeated by the creativity, patience, presence, awareness, and the dependence of this nation upon the country's Islamic leadership. Today we can say that we are moving successfully toward the point where we will be able to sever, as rapidly as possible, our dependence on oil income and the international economy.

Discussing the enemies' wicked intentions and economic plot, the prime minister said: In terms of our budget, they wanted to force us into financial distress and to cause our agricultural, research, and cultural programs to disintegrate, thinking that we would give up in two or three months. But despite all of this, you will not find any country in the world that, while at war and with such speed, could also implement such great projects as the Bandar 'Abbas-Bafq railway. We consider this to be a victory for our way of life. Efforts have been made to carry out projects that have very positive effects on our economy, and to isolate these projects from the effects of incomes.

The prime minister then referred to the economic plots concocted by the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the fact that they did not think that the Iranian nation would be able to augment its efforts and production under difficult economic conditions. He said: A good example of this is the big wheat harvest throughout the country. In our country's history we had never had a year during which 2.5 million tons of wheat had been purchased from the farmers.

Speaking of the government's large-scale programs for rural development, the prime minister said: Among the projects begun in the villages is the building of traditional canals. This is one of the country's most important projects; it will increase the area of cultivable land and will make possible the more effective use of water.

Noting that the country's economic structure continues to be greatly affected by the rural sector and that the rural sector and agriculture play a very extensive role in the country's economy, the prime minister said: By increasing production, our dear farmers actually played a great role in our nation's resistance to the enemies' economic plots. In the future, the government should pay more attention and give priority to rural affairs and agriculture.

The prime minister then went on to discuss cultural affairs, saying: This year we accepted 10,000 more students than last year and our state universities are making increased efforts to introduce doctorate-level courses.

The prime minister also referred to the adverse climate and psychological war created by the enemies of the Islamic Revolution in a bid to make the Iranian nation despair in its efforts for economic self-sufficiency, and said: We have seen various examples of this psychological war during recent months. At one time, when our storerooms were bursting with tea, they started rumors that we had a tea shortage. It was only after some time and through strong governmental action that this plot was foiled. They also started rumors about bread shortages and they said that the government wanted to ration bread. The ridiculous thing is that this was said this year, when we had had more wheat production than ever before. Even in the years when we had difficulties and our granaries were empty and when we had problems in the transport of wheat, the government never contemplated bread rationing, so why would it this year when — because our granaries in the south and throughout the country are full — we are postponing the distribution of wheat purchased abroad. The prime minister added: Regarding those staples that we might have shortages of, we ration them in such a way that everyone will be able to have some. Undoubtedly, bread has never, nor will ever be, among these products.

On the government's approach to the people, the prime minister added: The government's relations with the people are those of service. The government considers itself the people's servant. It respects the people and sees it as its duty to keep the nation informed as long as this information is not used by the enemy. The reason is that the people's awareness is the government's greatest capital.

Continuing, Mr Musavi discussed the imposed war and the enemies' plots to establish an armed peace and to force the Islamic Republic of Iran to come to terms, saying: One of the principles of our Islamic Revolution is that we respond to a blow with a blow. We cannot abandon this principle in any sense, for our independence depends upon it. We have been attacked and many of our people have been killed. Our cities have been plundered and destroyed, and the enemy has attempted to defeat our revolution and our system. If we cannot or choose not to answer this blow, we will undoubtedly have difficulty as far as preserving our country's independence is concerned. Those who propose peace to us while their eyes are fixed on the United States and the big powers who actually lack trust in the principles of the Islamic Revolution and in the people's religious beliefs, turn their eyes instead to foreign embassies.

The government's policy, in response to the desires of our leaders and the Muslim Iranian nation, is to resist in this war no matter how long it may take. It is for this reason that the government has dedicated all of its resources to the conduct of the war. Our entire nation knows today that our forces are more ready than ever before to strike at Saddam's regime; and we will, God willing, maintain this readiness to deal with our enemies forever.

Armed Forces Urged To Be 'Source of Security'

LD282008 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 28, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Tuesday "we hope that after the end of the Iraqi imposed war, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will become [a] source of security for the countries of the region."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also [the] special representative of Imam Khomeyni to the Supreme Defence Council, made the remarks in a meeting with the members of [the] Political-Ideological Department of the Joint Staff.

He added, "Our neighbours, despite their unfriendly attitude towards us, after the end of the war will find out that they will easily be able to live in peace with us and will trust us more."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran constitute a strong and reliable force and hoped that after the end of the war their expertise will be used in protecting [the] security of the country and in development projects.

According to Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani wrong analysis of imperialism about the Islamic Revolution of Iran was caused by its unfamiliarity with the Islamic structure of the Iranian society, misinterpretation of Islam and Iranian people.

In another part of his speech Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani talked about plots of world imperialism to sow discord between the Armed Forces personnel and the people. Contrary to their vicious plans, he added, in Iran, [the] Army and the people enjoyed excellent relations.

Envoy to Moscow, Shevardnadze Hold Talks

LD291008 Tehran IRNA in English 0927 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 29, IRNA — The Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told the Iranian ambassador to Moscow. Naser Hayrani-Nobari, in a meeting in Moscow Tuesday that the joint Irano-Soviet session will be held at ministerial level in Tehran in December.

The Soviet foreign minister said that undoubtedly the session will further strengthen and expand economic relations between the two countries.

Shevardnadze further added that his government attached great importance to the forthcoming visit to Moscow of the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. He outlined Soviet views on major regional and international issues and said that cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union plays an effective role in solving international issues.

The Iranian ambassador stated that expansion of mutual relations was beneficial for both countries.

On the Iraqi-imposed war, Hayrani-Nobari said as most countries and the world public opinion admit, the Iraqi regime has started the war and that the aggressor must be punished. It will be detrimental for the world community to accept the notion that an aggressor can be left unpunished.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, he stressed, because of its full respect for peace, will continue its heroic defence until downfall of the aggressor.

Meanwhile the Iranian ambassador also met and talked with the Soviet deputy foreign minister for international affairs and discussed practical measures for encouraging more contacts between the officials of the two countries.

KEYHAN on 'Political Expertise', Diplomacy

PM281655 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 20 Oct 86 p 2

[Editorial: "A Well-Balanced Move Within the Framework of Principles"]

[Excerpts] The recent trip by Prime Minister Mr Musavi to the GDR and Hungary at the head of a high-level delegation has once again raised the subject of "principles" and "direction-seeking" in Iran's foreign policy in Iranian as well as international political circles.

In a way the world is presently the scene of political and diplomatic struggles, and as history has shown, politics and diplomacy are powerful weapons in the hands of officials and leaders as well as revolutionaries and peoples. They can move world conditions in a direction guaranteeing the maximum gains with regard to their national and ideological interests. [passage omitted]

If you consider the positions and actions taken by the officials of the Islamic Republic, especially in the current year, you see the truth — that effective elements and officials from Iran have shown special expertise. By knowing the secret of diplomatic struggle and the effectiveness of diplomacy while at the same time remaining firm on their principles in the international political arena, they are trying to use this weapon to gain more rights for the downtrodden.

The sequence of talks and visits by the Islamic Republic's officials in the current year all primarily indicate the activity of Iran's diplomacy and foreign policy. They also indicate an understanding of the importance of active diplomacy in order to achieve more success. It is this collection of positions, talks, and actions that has caused Western analysts to admit to the "political expertise" of the Iranian officials. This is also why they have warned the capitalist world about the long-term results of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy and strategy.

The establishment of some kind of friendly relations with the PRC and the relative improvement of ties between Iran and the Soviet Union, according to a *Washington Times* analyst, signify a breaking of the diplomatic ice and the speeding up of relations between the two sides. On the other hand, Iran's maneuver with regard to the contracts signed with the Western bloc show that the officials in charge of the Islamic Republic are trying to use the differences between the superpowers in their own national interests.

In reality, from the various multidirectional diplomacy and relations of the Islamic Republic, the West will know that Iran will never fall into the trap of relations and contracts signed with them. The East will know that Iran has many choices, and if Iran is veering toward the Eastern bloc it is not because of need or necessity, rather it is within a strategy that is based on principles that reject compromise, a strategy that wants balance in relations between peoples. This point, the root of a basic revolutionary diplomacy, seems to be the guide for our officials so that they can progress along the lines of the country's foreign policy.

With regard to engineer Musavi's trip to two East European countries, it must be said that this was done in accordance with the basis of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic, there is no change in these relations, and the visit was within the framework of these basic principles. [passage omitted]

The most basic principle which the Islamic Republic insists upon is struggle against world imperialism and Zionism, a principle that forms the foundation upon which its foreign policy is based. Despite this there is a long way to go before a balance can be achieved in our economic, technical, and trade relations with countries of the two Western and Eastern Blocs, and there are many obstacles in the way of our officials.

A look at available figures indicates that about 68 percent of Iran's entire imports are from developed countries with open capitalist economies and only 7.3 percent of our imports are from countries with centralized economies, or socialist countries. Ten nations — the FRG, Japan, Britain, Turkey, Italy, South Korea, Sweden, Brazil, Argentina, and Belgium — are at the top of the group of nations from which the Islamic Republic imports goods and industrial and investment products.

There are many reasons for this. For example:

1. The makeup of our industrial and economic foundations, left over from the past corrupt and puppet regime have not experienced a great deal of change yet.

2. Western industry and technology bears the mark of being "advanced and of better quality" and is therefore attractive.

3. There is a psychological and political revolutions with regard to the Eastern bloc which makes relations with them synonymous with supporting socialism and communism.

4. There is no clear and correct program to change and cut any further deepening of Iran's economic and industrial ties with the West.

5. There are many different views among the officials of the Islamic Republic with regard to the "type and direction of our foreign relations" and also "the correct path and strategy of the country's economy" in order to achieve food and technical self-sufficiency. There is a lack of a unified policy in this respect.

Although the points mentioned have had no effect on lessening our trade relations with the West, at present, the level of imports, when compared to the times before the revolution and even compared to 1979, have decreased. Figures show that our imports from the West and Japan have dropped from 81.2 percent in 1979 to 68.1 in 1983. Yet in relations with the East, as far as our economic and political relations are concerned, the figures show that the direction has not changed that much.

While in 1979 our total imports from socialist countries made up some 7.3 percent of our entire imports, this figure rose to 14.2 percent in 1982 yet dropped again in 1983 to 7.3 percent. Naturally, this issue depends on whether bilateral relations are cordial or cool.

Of course the volume of contracts and trade exchange with either of the two blocs do not indicate the nature of a regime. The Islamic Republic of Iran, under the present circumstances, is on the one hand involved with the imposed war and on the other has to face fundamental changes in its economic insitutions. It is also involved in a struggle against imperialism and world arrogance and is the forerunner in this struggle. At the same time, it is carrying the banner of the global Islamic movement throughout the world. So it is proper for it to follow policies, both internal and external, that match the ideology it has chosen to follow.

It can be said that with the path that our foreign policy has followed with regard to the West, the European countries have come to believe that the Islamic Republic has no intention of decreasing the level of its trade with these countries. They believe that Iran's programs and policies will be like they were previously. Despite the fact that the West badly needs the Iranian market, because we do not have the power to cut our dependence nor do we have the power to quickly replace the West's goods and technology, they are still confronting us with the view of the arrogant versus the weak. Despite Iran's threats they act as if nothing has changed.

There are two political and economic elements which can force the West to give up its arrogant stance with regard to the Islamic Republic and force it to have healthier and more humane relations with us. These will force the West to realize that the Islamic Republic will not fall into the trap of relations and contracts with them, that it has found replacements for these relations.

The economic element is the fact that the West needs the Iranian market. The market has a population of nearly 50 million people, and by engaging in active trade with this market, the West can cut down on its own economic crisis. It is this same element that has caused France to change its previously hostile policies toward the Islamic Republic and to extend a hand of friendship toward Iran, since the previous hostile relations had an effect on the volume of bilateral trade.

The political element is Iran's strategic position in the region. As we have said before, the difference between the East and the West in their relations with the Islamic Republic depends on the type of relations Iran has with either of the two blocs. In other words, both the East and West have come to an agreement on ways to curb the spread of the Islamic Revolution, yet any closeness of Iran to either of the two blocs causes a weakening in the control of the other in the region.

Using this difference between the two blocs is the point that our balanced maneuvers within the framework of the Constitution can make easier.

If these political and economic elements are used properly they can become two powerful leverage points in two vital areas in the service of a steadfast fundamental and revolutionary strategy. Not only will the Islamic Republic benefit from the type and volume of trade, our superior position as well as our independence can be safeguarded so that other countries such as West Germany would not have the courage to treat us so rudely.

Despite this, what is more important for our new Islamic Republic is to clarify the direction our economy is to take before considering the types and the volume of trade involving the East and the West. The health and balance of this economic policy should depend on the supremacy of the Constitution, should be a unified and clear economic position, and should counter all deviated and corrupt elements who think only of their own profit and who try to destroy healthy economic relations in society.

Bomb Explosion in Zahedan Injures Nine

LD281617 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., Oct 28, IRNA — A relatively powerful bomb went off in front of former headquarters of an Afghan opposition party in Zahedan, eastern Iran, Monday night, injuring nine people. Windows of houses and shops within in the range of 100 meters were smashed.

Immediately after the explosion relief workers rushed to help the injured, eight of whom received outpatient treatment.

An official of the provincial governor general's office told IRNA that so far no group has claimed responsibility for the explosion. He added that probably the bomb had been planted by agents of secret police of the Soviet installed Government of Afghanistan.

A number of suspects have been arrested, the source said, adding that further investigations were underway.

Red Cross May Again Visit Iraqi POW's

AU281716 Paris AFP in English 1701 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Geneva, Oct 28 (AFP) — Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) may again visit Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran, Iranian Foreign Ministry Official (Sirus Naseri) announced here Tuesday. The visits were halted in October 1984.

"Visas have been granted" to ICRC delegates wishing to go to Tehran to visit the prisoners, Mr (Naseri) told a press conference.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Air Force Bombs Iraqi Garrison

LD290611 Tehran IRNA in English 0608 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 29, IRNA — The Iranian Air Force fighter-bombers pounded the 'Aqrah Garrison in northern Iraq Wednesday morning, said a Joint Staff headquarters statement.

The raid was carried out at 07:16 hours local time (03:46 hours GMT) and the Iranian pilots, after inflicting heavy losses on the establishment, returned safely to their bases, it added.

Communique No 2,639

LD291614 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 29, IRNA — Some Iranian Air Force jet fighters heavily bombarded the military garrison of Agra, in the northern Iraqi province of Dahuk, at 03:46 GMT Wednesday. All attacking planes returned to their base after inflicting heavy losses upon the enemy.

Announcing the above Wednesday, the 2,639th communique of the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces also said that all activities of the Iraqi forces in the southern and central sectors of the nearly 1,200 km-long battlefront were halted during Tuesday and Wednesday when their strongholds came under superior fire-power of the Iranian Muslim combatants. The enemy sustained more casualties and damage in the said theatres.

Heavy artillery fire of Iran's combatants of Islam was directed at two Iraqi armoured units in the Basra operational region, southern Iraq, and enemy infantry forces in the Kushk and Zeydi operational regions of the southern fronts checked the enemy's movements and dealt blows upon them.

Also, some Iraqi tanks were smashed and enemy fire was silenced in the southern fronts of Sharhani, Bejeliyah, and Zeydi by the fire of Iranian heavy weapons.

In the western operational regions of Mehran, Zurbatiyah, and Mandali, activities and movements of Iraqi infantry and armoured units were subjected to Iranian artillery fire which destroyed a number of enemy heavy vehicles, said the communique.